Admin leave today for non-critical gov't employees. PAGE 2
Probable cause found to try man accused of strangling ex-GF. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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TUESDAY JULY 5, 2022
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50 GROUPS, 3 GRAND MARSHALS, 21 FLOATS

LibDay spectacle returns

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Making up for lost time, the CNMI celebrated yesterday three years' worth of Liberation Day parades that saw 50 groups, three grand marshals, and 21 floats snaking their way along a stretch of Beach Road that was lined on both sides with hundreds of spectators, some of whom have been camping out at the parade route the night before.

See LIBDAY on Page 4

The float called the "Diaspora of FSM in Saipan" is seen with dancers from Yap getting ready to dance in front of the grandstand at the Garapan Fishing Base during the 74th, 75th, and 76th Liberation Day parade and festivities yesterday.
LEIGH GASES

Torres: $15M for TRIP Japan well spent. PAGE 2
FAA gives CPA until July 31 to resolve audit findings. PAGE 3

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

NATION
A Black man was unarmed when police chased him on foot and killed him in a hail of gunfire.
PAGE 12

WORLD
A gunman opened fire inside a shopping mall in the Danish capital Sunday, killing three people.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Superstar Ricky Martin on Sunday denies allegations that led to a restraining order against him.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

REGARDING TRIP JAPAN FUNDING

Torres: $15M will be well spent; I would do it all over again

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although some community members have raised concerns about the CNMI government's decision to allocate $15 million worth of federal funds to restart Japanese tourism in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres believes it's the right thing to do and he said he would do it all over again if needed.

During a news briefing last Saturday to formally announce the launch of TRIP Japan as well as United Airlines' new direct route from Saipan to Narita, Torres addressed some concerns raised over his decision to allocated $15 million to TRIP Japan while the CNMI community continues to struggle with issues such as inflation.

"Tourism is our only industry. If we cannot bring in and continue bringing in our tourists, then where are we going to be at in the future? So if you ask me, 'Is this $15 million well spent?' Absolutely! And I would do it all over again because it is the right thing to do. I continue to emphasize that tourism is the driving force of our economy," he said.

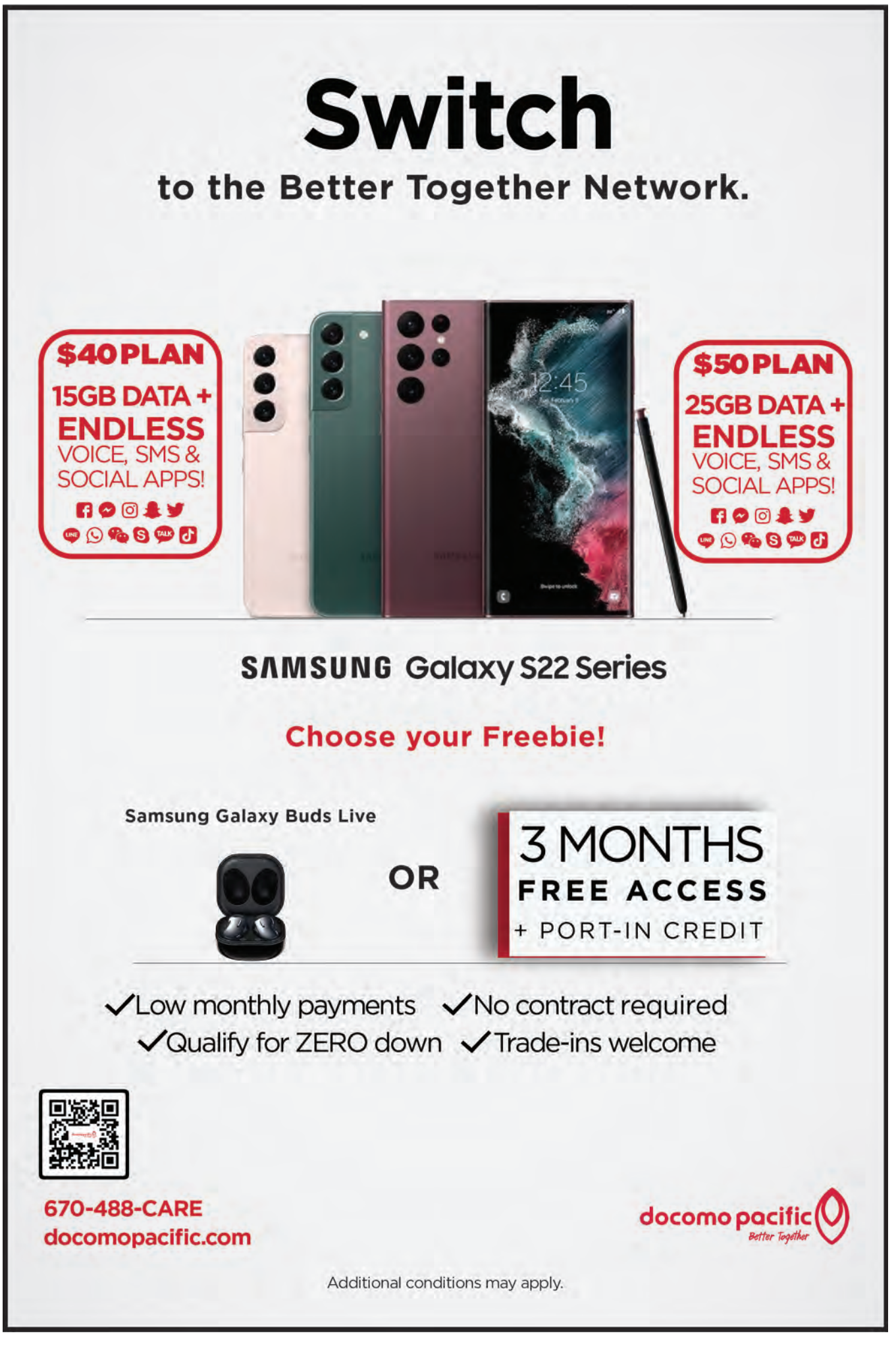
Torres said this $15 million will not only be used to provide incentives for the airline that will be servicing TRIP Japan, but it will ultimately reopen and create jobs.

"This $15 million will not only create jobs, but these incentives have caused airlines to show interest in providing continuous service for the CNMI. That is what will jump start and continue the success of our tourism resumption efforts," he said.

Marianas Visitors Authority chair Viola Alepuyo acknowledged that the criticism and concern is valid, but the allocation is much needed if the CNMI is to revive its tourism industry that was stagnant for years as a result of COVID-19.

"It's not an unreasonable criticism. But we've also heard that you either give somebody a fish or you teach them how to fish, right? What we're trying to do is we're trying to jumpstart our economy. If we gave that $15 million and divided it amongst all our community members, they get to spend it once. But if we help our economy get back on track, then we can see revenue. We can see the government start to provide services the way they're supposed to. We can see businesses opening back up and we can see people start getting their jobs back. We've seen that happen. So we're hoping that the Korean and the Japanese market will double what the government currently brings in in revenues, and that it will double the jobs that is being offered to our community members. If all our people are going to expect is to stay home and get handouts, where are we going to be in a year when the money runs out?" she said.

TRIP Japan is set to officially launch on Sept. 1 and is anticipated to bring in roughly 8,000 Japanese tourists.



Kilili's request for 10 more community projects worth $20.6M is approved

The House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee has approved 10 more Marianas community projects worth $20.6 million that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) had requested as part of the House fiscal year 2023 spending plan.

Sablan disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that the CNMI's Department of Public Works would receive $10 million for four road projects under the U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill.

Sablan said the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority would receive $8.4 million for three transit projects.

He said the U.S. departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill includes two of his requests worth $1.3 million to support education in the Marianas.

The delegate said the Interior Environment spending plan includes $911,302 that he requested for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He said the funding would go to CUC to provide a comprehensive wastewater treatment analysis and feasibility study for Tinian and Rota.

All three bills now go to the full House for approval.

The four DPW road projects are the $2-million Rota Route 10 Drainage Improvements and Road Overlay, $2-million Tinian Route 205 Road and Drainage Improvements, $2-million Saipan Route 302 Improvements, and the $4-million Saipan Route 36 Phase 1 Construction.

The three COTA transit projects are the $4.5-million 187 Bus Stop Shelters on Saipan Public Transit Fixed Route, $3-million Covered Bus Parking Facility, and $900,000 Bus Transfer Stations at Northern Marianas College, Paseo de Marianas, and Kagman.

The two projects to support education are the $1-million NMC health career training and equipment and $311,939 Public School System's Chamorro and Refaluwasch language immersion instruction and curriculum development. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Admin leave today for all non-critical government workers

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has authorized the administrative leave today, July 5, 2022, for all non-critical Commonwealth government employees, "in honor and celebration of the CNMI's 76 years of freedom." In a memorandum yesterday, Torres said that every Liberation Day "is an opportunity for us to remember all the remarkable challenges and transformative changes that our islands and our people have endured. This weekend, may we reflect upon our history and all that we have overcome. And in a special way, may we pay homage to all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, as well as to all our servicemen and women, past and present, who have devoted their lives to the protection of our liberties as a Commonwealth and as a nation.

"I would also like to thank all our government employees for their hard work and commitment in service to the public. May we continue to show respect and love toward one another in the coming years.

"…Let us continue to move our islands forward together, as one Marianas united in strength and resilience. Happy Liberation Day, and may God bless you and your families," he added. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

FAA gives CPA until July 31 to resolve audit findings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration has notified the Commonwealth Ports Authority that it will sanction the agency if it fails to resolve by July 31, 2022, all issues in single audit findings, including those found by an auditor again and again in subsequent years.

Such sanctions could result in the suspension or termination of federal awards, initiation of suspension or debarment proceedings, or withholding further federal awards for the project or program, among other actions.

In a letter to CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio dated April 21, 2022, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, FAA Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis director Kevin C. Willis specifically urged CPA to hire an outside consultant/accounting firm to assist in resolving all single audit findings.

Until then, Willis said, the FAA cannot accept Tenorio's proposed corrective actions.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds told *Saipan Tribune* last night that they take this matter seriously and the board, staff, and CPA management have been working hard to resolve those issues since receiving this FAA notice,

King-Hinds said one of the action items on that FAA list of tasks to complete was getting the 1% Office of the Public Auditor fee law changed to exempt CPA.

Tenorio

She said the bigger issue is resolving audit findings that have been on the books for many years.

Over the course of these past several months, she said they have established standard operating procedures for procurement and equipment management.

She said they have been conducting training on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on these SOP's and have hired a technical consultant to assist management in this process.

To ensure that CPA is compliant moving forward, King-Hinds said they are in the process of hiring an internal auditor to conduct quarterly review.

She said their goal is to wipe the slate clean and hold everyone accountable for keeping it clean and that she is confident that they can get there.

"We do not expect a clean audit because we are taking these corrective measures during the audit period, but I am confident that the next fiscal year will be good," she said.

Willis noted that they have not received a response to their letter sent to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Oct. 13, 2020, which was a follow-up letter regarding the request for a status on the aviation fuel tax action plans.

The FAA official wrote the April 21 letter to Tenorio in response to the latter's proposed corrective actions, Feb. 11, 2022 response and ongoing issues for CPA's single audit reports for the biennial periods ending Sept. 30, 2018 and 2020.

He said that, according to CPA's summary schedule for audit findings in the 2020 single audit, issues pertaining to equipment and real property have been ongoing since 2008.

In addition, Willis said, one finding—2020-002—pertaining to local compliance procurement is a repeat finding from 2019.

He said that, as required by the Code of Federal Regulations, an auditee must promptly follow up and take corrective action on audit findings. In turn, Willis said, the FAA must follow up on audit findings to ensure that the auditee takes appropriate and timely corrective action.

King-Hinds

The FAA official said CPA claims to resolve findings in the management responses, yet continues to be written up again and again by its external auditor in subsequent years for the same and/or similar issues.

The external auditor—usually an accounting firm that CPA hires to audit itself—stated in CPA's 2020 single audit report that "CPA lacks controls, such as oversight responsibility and monitoring, over compliance with equipment and real property management requirements." The auditor further stated that CPA is in noncompliance with applicable equipment and real property management requirements. Willis noted that the auditor used the same language for noncompliance with procurement rules and regulations.

He said this is a significant concern to the FAA as the largest provider of federal funding to CPA. Willis pointed out that in CPA's grant obligations, it is bound to keep accounts and records "in accordance with an accounting system that will facilitate an effective audit in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1984." He said it is clear CPA cannot resolve these issues on its own and thus cannot effectively manage federal awards in accordance with CFR.

In addition, Willis said, in the 2020 single audit, CPA was written up by the auditor for new issues: 2020-001 non-payroll expenditures, 2020-004 reporting related to SF-425, and 2020-005 allowable costs.

Effective immediately, the FAA is placing "special conditions" on CPA, requiring Airport Improvement Program payments as reimbursements rather than advance payments, he said.

FAA requested CPA to obtain technical or management assistance to resolve all findings and gain auditor acceptance.

Willis said sanctions for non-compliance may result in temporarily withheld cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the non-federal entity or more severe enforcement action by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

He said sanctions may also result in denying both use of funds and any applicable matching credit for all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance.

He added that sanctions could wholly or partly suspend or terminate the federal award, initiate suspension or debarment proceedings, withhold further federal awards for the project or program, and take other remedies that may be legally available.

On the issue of not responding to FAA's request for a status on aviation fuel tax action plans, Willis said they asked, among other information, if the Finance secretary has reduced or waived the fuel tax imposed under Public Law 13-17 Section 1403 where "the price of aviation fuel elsewhere and the airline would purchase the aviation fuel in the Commonwealth?"

He said failure to respond within 30 days will result in a recommendation to withhold discretionary grant funding and a notice of investigation by the FAA Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis.

CCC, IPI closes in on settlement agreement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that they are currently closing in on their settlement agreement.

During a status conference last Friday before Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, IPI lawyer Kevin Abikoff said a draft of the stipulated agreement is now being circulated among the parties. Attorney Alison Nelson, who represents the CCC, confirmed the report before the court.

The CCC-IPI settlement agreement has now been in the works for the past month.

Manglona set a status conference for Tuesday, July 12, at 8:30am.

The court ordered the two lawyers to report to the court no later than July 11 on the status of the settlement agreement.

IPI previously filed a complaint against the CCC and took out a temporary restraining order against the commission to prohibit it from moving forward with a hearing to revoke IPI's exclusive casino commission.

According to court documents, IPI filed their complaint and emergency motion for TRO last May 23.

The court issued the TRO on May 23, ordering the CCC to cease and desist from proceeding with enforcement action 2021-001-005, including convening the enforcement hearing scheduled for May 24-25.

File photo shows the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino in Garapan.
BJ. EDDY

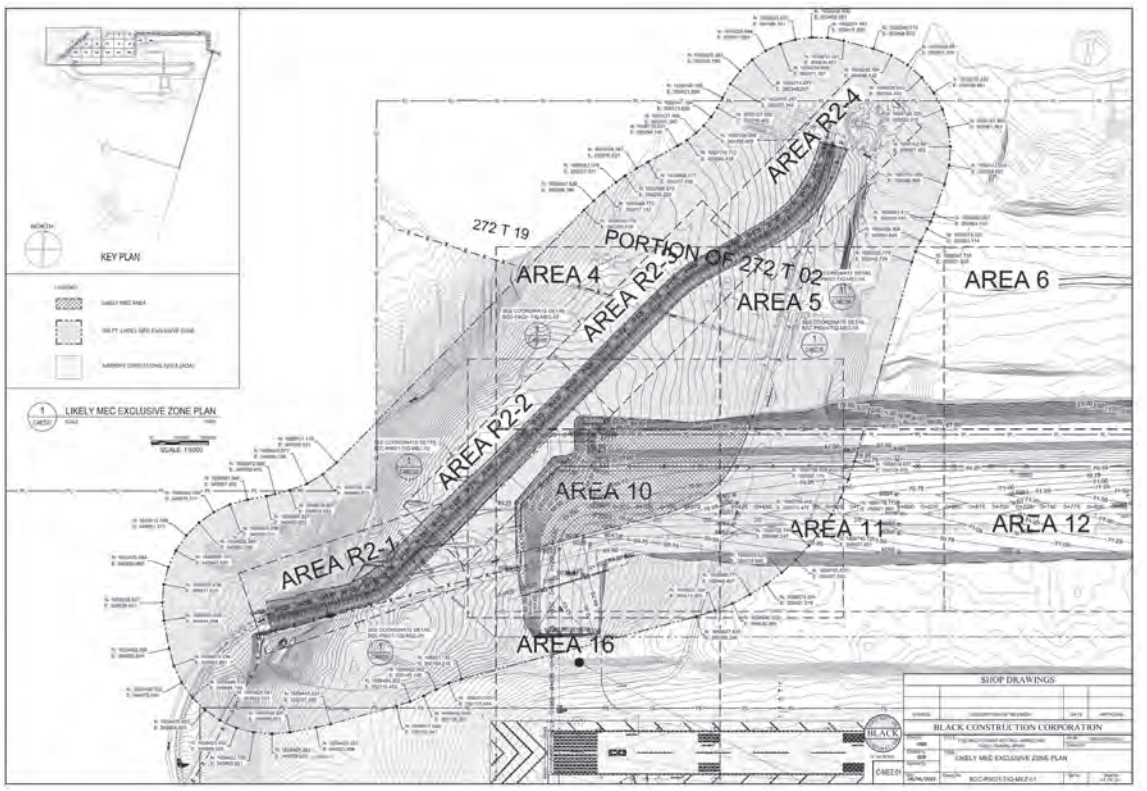
The parties appeared before the court for a status conference on May 25, where the defendants asked for more time to respond to IPI's emergency motion.

Following the status conference, the court issued an order extending CCC's deadline to file its opposition to IPI to May 31, with plaintiff's reply due June 2.

Based on a stipulation by the parties filed on May 31, the court entered an order extending the TRO and granting the joint stipulated motion to stay briefing on IPI's motion due to the parties' significant progress toward a settlement.

According to the order, the court extended the TRO through July 8, and stayed the briefing on the plaintiffs' complaint and emergency motion for TRO for a period of 30 days.

Work to relocate Tinian's 8th Avenue begins



A part of the contract between the U.S. Department of Defense and Black Micro Corp. is relocating a portion of the existing 8th Avenue route to accommodate the plans for the Divert Airfield Project on Tinian.

Starting today, July 5, 2022, Black Micro Corp. will begin survey and vegetation cutting along the identified route for the new 8th Avenue. Vegetation cutting will continue through the new route and will continue into the smaller segment (shown as Area 10 on the attached plan). Area 10 is located on the northeast side of the new 8th Avenue route. During this activity, 8th Avenue will not be closed.

On Monday, July 18, 2022, Black Micro Corp. and their subcontractor will be performing Anomaly Investigation, which is searching for possible Munitions of Explosive Concerns in preparation for the relocation of 8th Avenue.

During the Anomaly Investigation expected to take place from July 18, 2022, through October 2022, a portion of 8th Avenue will be closed to the public. No vehicles or access may be granted until the relocation of 8th Avenue is completed by Black Micro Corp.

Community members are advised to take Broadway Street to enter the north end of Tinian, and onto 86th Street to enter the existing 8th Avenue route that is not a part of the relocation project. Black Micro Corp. will be erecting roadway signs for precautionary measures. Community members should remain vigilant and adhere to the signs you see along the roadways.

Updates and changes on this project will be provided to the public. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding the above notice, contact the Tinian Mayor's Office at (670) 433-1800/02/07. ***(PR)***

Rota appropriation bills OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Legislative Delegation passed Friday a bill that would appropriate $100,000 from the poker licensing account for two months' worth of subsistence allowance for the island's hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients, and for the operations of the Luta Soil and Water Conservation District.

Manglona

Santos

At a session in the Senate chamber, RLD members passed House Local Bill 22-33, which was authored by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind.-Rota).

Present at the session were RLD co-chairs Manglona and Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind.-Rota), and Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind.-Rota). Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) was excused from the session.

Under HLB 22-33, $95,000 would be appropriated for two months' worth of Medical Subsistence Allowance for Rota hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients, and $5,000 for the operations of the Luta Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Finance secretary shall be the expenditure authority for the $95,000 for the Medical Subsistence Allowance, while the chairperson of the Luta Soil and Water Conservation District shall be the expenditure authority for the $5,000.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s question, Santos said the delegation decided to remove the proposed appropriation of $35,000 for construction of basketball and volleyball courts, and the $10,000 for fencing of these courts.

"The delegation decided to fund those projects from bond interest," Santos said.

The RLD also passed Friday House Local Bill 22-34 that would appropriate $150,000 from the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Reserve Account Program for scholarships and housing assistance.

The chairman of the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Board shall be the expenditure authority of this funding. Manglona is the author of the bill.

LIBDAY

From Page 1

Billed as a celebration of the 74th, 75th, and 76th Liberation Day parades, the spectacle was on full display yesterday after being cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with most people choosing not to wear a mask, complete with rain before and during the parade, which seems to be a yearly occurrence, but which ultimately did not deter the hundreds of people gathered up and down Beach Road.

This year's Liberation Day theme is "Honoring Our Legacy as we Ride the Waves of Change" and was seen in the floats' designs and performances that meshed both tradition and modernization, as they made their way from the National Office Supply to Garapan Fishing Base after a slight delay due to the rain.

The start of the parade itself kicked with the roar and booming sound of motorcycles from the Young Gunz and Harley Davidson Group, followed by the Guam Army National Guard, which joined the parade for the first time right behind the three grand marshals—Estanislao Tudela "Stanley" McGinnis, Don A. Farrell, and Michael S. "Mike" Sablan—representing one for each anniversary of Liberation Day since it was last held in 2019.

Prior to the start of the parade, House Resolution 22-21 was presented to remember and honor Elias Parong Sablan for his dedication, contributions, and sacrifices for the people of Saipan post-World War II.

The 50 groups of colorfully clothed and decorated marchers and floats also showcased their performances and presented gifts to the delegates, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Sen. President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and various U.S. military VIPs who were present.

Separately, in his message in the Liberation Day program, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said this year's celebration of Liberation Day will be his last as mayor of Saipan as he will complete his term next year.

"As in all past Fourth of July Liberation Day celebrations since you made me your mayor, I owe you and all the Liberation Day committee volunteers that I had the honor of working side-by-side my profound gratitude," he said. "Working together with many Fourth of July Liberation Day celebration volunteers in my eight years as your mayor has been a very refreshing and rewarding experience. I am blessed by your professionalism and enthusiasm to share your incredible talents in making each year's celebration an event for our residents and visitors to always remember. You are now a part of our island's history and your individual and collective contributions in our traditional Fourth of July Liberation Day events will be the legacy others after would, I am sure, emulate for all future generations that call our island of Saipan home. I want to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the Fourth of July Liberation Day celebrations for all the years I have served as the mayor of Saipan."

Later, when asked about the turnout of the parade and festivities, Apatang said, "I'm very happy for today's celebration. The community is all out today to watch the parade and I'm very happy that we have this many floats today. It's a very tremendous day for us as it's the first time we have this in the last couple of years. I want to thank our community for continuing to support our July 4 activities."

In fact, hours after the parade ended at noon, hundreds of people were still lined up along Beach Road, continuing their celebration with families and friends in tents and picnic tables that had been installed along the highway's sides.

Festivities for this year's Liberation Day Fair began last Thursday, June 30, and has over 60 booths.

Last night capped off the festivities with an explosive fireworks display over the Garapan Fishing Base.

Probable cause found to try man accused of strangling ex-GF

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man accused of strangling his former girlfriend and beating her because she was on the phone with her current boyfriend.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan found probable cause last week to try Sheldon U. Remoket, 35, for strangulation, assault and battery-domestic violence, assault-domestic violence, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence report.

Following the hearing, Remoket was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody.

Remoket is represented by assistant public defender Tyler Ross Scott while assistant attorney general Steven Kessell prosecutes the case.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers were dispatched to Atdao Street in Dandan last June 12 at around 2:34am to respond to a disturbance call near the Cepeda Tent company. While driving around the area, police found a woman running along Atdao street whose hair was wet and messy, was sweating, and had a red mark on her neck. She was later identified as the victim in this case.

According to the victim, she came home around 1:30am and, when she entered her apartment, she saw Remoket lying on her bed, pretending to be asleep. She said she repeatedly told Remoket to leave her apartment, but he refused, so she yelled at him and, shortly after, Remoket allegedly grabbed her cell phone from her as she was talking to her current partner, took out the phone's SIM card, then grabbed her hair and slammed her on the bed and on the floor. The woman said Remoket also allegedly ripped her short pants, breaking the zipper on her pants.

When she tried to run out of her apartment, the victim said Remoket blocked her and wouldn't let her leave until they both saw police lights outside the apartment and she said she'd scream if he didn't let her out.

The victim said that, at the time police found her, she wasn't sure at what point of her struggle but she remembered Remoket wrapping both his hands around her neck and strangling her. She informed officers that her neck was hurting and that it hurt to swallow.

In a follow-up interview with the victim the next day, June 13, she confirmed her previous statement to the responding officers. She said Remoket twisted her right arm, then grabbed the cell phone from her and, when Remoket refused to let her go, she fought him and even bit his right index finger, causing him to let go.

This was when Remoket allegedly slammed her onto the bed and as she landed facing upward, he used his right hand and strangled her.

"I kept fighting, I couldn't breathe. I thought I was gonna die. My eyes felt like they were gonna pop out," the victim told police.

The victim, who is prone to seizures, claimed that she remembers having an episode during the altercation with Remoket. She doesn't recall how long it lasted, but when it ended, she felt weak. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

Training on enhancing resiliency in the CNMI set

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development is inviting the CNMI's Planning and Development Advisory Council, planning partners, and members of the public to attend a Smart, Safe Growth Training taking place from July 19 to 28. The training is centered on enhancing resiliency in the CNMI. This training will help environmental practitioners, developers, and project managers incorporate sustainability principles into plans and projects.

The training is facilitated by OPD with support from PDAC and planning partners, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Those who want to participate are urged to fill out the form: https://forms.gle/dTN891eZSBvpLDW76, or email planning@opd.gov.mp.

There is no limit on the number of attendees, but in person seating is limited and will be offered first-come, first-served. As such, OPD asks all interested to respond by July 8 to confirm your space or receive a Zoom link.

Modules will be repeated throughout Week 1 and Week 2 to encourage maximum participation by CNMI agency leaders and staff and the business community. Attendees are encouraged to select Module presentations according to their availability, with those that hope to build their expertise in this critical subject matter joining the "Module 5" Train the Trainer Sessions.

The schedule for Week 1 and Week 2 is as follows:

JULY 19:

■ 9am- 10:15am— Module 1: Smart, Safe Growth Primer

■ 10:45am- 12pm— Module 2: SSG and the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan

■ 1pm- 2:15pm— Module 3: SSG Guidance Manual

■ 2:15pm- 4pm— Module 4: SSG in Regulatory Context

JULY 20:

■ 9am- 10:15am— Module 1: Smart, Safe Growth Primer

■ 10:45am- 12pm— Module 2: SSG and the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan

■ 1pm- 2:15pm— Module 3: SSG Guidance Manual

■ 2:15pm- 4pm— Module 4: SSG in Regulatory Context

JULY 21:

■ 9am- 10:15am— Module 1: Smart, Safe Growth Primer

■ 10:45am- 12pm— Module 2: SSG and the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan

■ 1pm- 2:15pm— Module 3: SSG Guidance Manual

■ 2:15pm- 4pm— Module 4: SSG in Regulatory Context

JULY 22:

■ Module 5:

9am - 10:15am—Train the Trainer I

10:45am - 12pm— Train the Trainer II

1pm-4pm—Module 5 Tutorial

JULY 25:

■ Module 6:

9am- 10:15am— Survey123 Tool; Practical I

10:45am- 12pm— Survey123 Tool; Practical II

1pm- 4pm—Module 6 Tutorial

JULY 26:

■ Module 6:

9am-10:15am—Survey123 Tool; Practical I

10:45am-12pm—Survey123 Tool; Practical II

1pm- 4pm—Module 6 Tutorial

JULY 27:

■ Module 6:

9am-10:15am—Survey123 Tool; Practical I

10:45am - 12pm— Survey123 Tool; Practical II

1pm - 4pm— Module 6 Tutorial

JULY 28:

■ Module 6:

9am-10:15am— Survey123 Tool; Practical I

10:45am-12pm—Survey123 Tool; Practical II

1pm-4pm—Module 6 Tutorial

While extreme weather events and natural disasters cannot be avoided, steps can be taken toward reducing the impacts these events have on our communities, environment, and economy. Efforts that incorporate Smart, Safe Growth, or SSG, support these steps. ***(OPD)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this July. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **July 7 – How to Register in SAM -** *Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in Federal contracting. The SAM registration process recently changed. The Guam PTAC will take you through the new registration process as well as the new annual renewal process.*

■ **July 14 – Federal Contract Opportunities -** *SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.*

■ **July 21 – How to Get HUBZone Certified -** *All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the certification process, the required supporting documents, and follow-up requirements from SBA.*

■ **July 28 – How to Get WOSB Certified -** *WOSB is an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the online certification process as well as supporting document requirements.*

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/THC-020

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:JULY 25th, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

Design Services for Tinian Health Center (THC) Generator Replacement

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-COTA/FTA-42200120

SUBMISSION DATE: July 28, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"Purchase and Delivery of Four (4) 8-Passenger High Roof ADA Mobility Equipped Electric Transit Vans with One (1) Wheel Chair Position for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY AT MRS. ALFREDA C. MARATITA **VIA EMAIL ONLY** TO alfredac.maratita@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 04:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 15, 2022**. ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL BIDDERS. ***QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.***

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA C. MARATITA
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman — JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman — HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member — DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
(AMENDED)

No.: 2022-01(a)

It is the policy of the Tinan Casino Gaming Control Commission that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution, and the Federal Civil Rights Laws regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

Position Title: Executive Director
Opening Date: 06/28/2022 **Extended Closing Date:** 07/12/2022
Salary: $55,000.00 - $65,000.00 per annum **Pay Level:** Ungraded
Location: Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, P.O. Box 520143 Tinian, MP 96952 USA

Duties: Serves as Chief Administrative Officer for the staff of the Gaming Commission. Responsible for maintaining efficient operations, for the Gaming Commission. Ensures that the Gaming Commission fulfill its mandate, pursuant to the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. Responsible for recruiting staff members for the TCGCC. Develops administrative procedures, and applicable internal controls. Initiates investigations of applicants for casino licenses, and other applicable licenses. Makes recommendations to the members of the Commission based on the findings of due diligence reports. Prepares annual performance report for the Gaming Commission. Reviews and finalizes the financial reports of the Gaming Commission's activities. Performs other duties as specified in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, and pursuant to the advice of the Commission.

Qualifications: A combination equivalent to a degree from an accredited college or university, in public administration, business administration or related fields, and at least five (5) years of substantial experience in administrative office management and staff supervision, either the public or with the private sector. Experience in personnel management, fiscal management, procurement and supply, contract negotiation, and other managerial skills, will also be taken into consideration. Applicant must pass the required pre-employment drug testing and other applicable standards, pursuant to the TCGCC Personnel Rules and Regulations.

Special Conditions of Employment: Employment will be undertaken pursuant to TCGCC Personnel Regulations, including but not limited to, Sub-Section 170-30.5-235 which states that "There are special conditions and standards of employment which are considered implicit to successful performance in certain positions". These include, the availability to perform work during non-standard working hours, the requirement to officially travel, as deemed necessary by the TCGCC, and other related duties.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, AT THE TCGCC'S MAIN OFFICE IN TINIAN. THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND ALL REVELANT DOCUMENTS WHICH INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO A RESUME, SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND/OR OTHER RELEVANT EDUCATION TRANSCRIPTS, AND A POLICE CLEARANCE, MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONNEL SPECIALIST AT THE TCGCC'S MAIN OFFICE DURING THE SPECIFIED OPENING AND CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION.

NOTE: TCGCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR CANCEL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CAUSE.

Committee forwards Saipan name master map bill to full House

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Commerce and Tourism Committee approved last week a bill that would adopt a sole village delimitation and name master map of Saipan and names the Office of the Mayor of Saipan as primary custodian for maintaining and preserving it.

House Bill 22-82, authored by House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), also proposes that the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division be the secondary custodian of the village delimitation and name master map.

With the committee's approval, the bill now goes to the full House for voting, according to committee chair Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan).

At the committee meeting, Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) said that he has identified many points in the bill that makes the legislation important, one of which is the accessibility of emergency vehicles.

Villagommez

Camacho said the proper naming of streets and house numbers , along with this map, would actually enhance the capabilities of emergency vehicles wherever they are going.

The other thing is the house-to-house mail service, Camacho said. "I think it's time that we would do that. With that it also helps the post office [minimize] congestion," he said, adding that he fully supports the bill and that they should pass it and send it to the full House.

Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) also moved for the committee's adoption of the legislation, citing the public hearings they did on the bill and the urgency of the bill to be passed.

Under the bill, the standard village delimitation and name master map for Saipan identifies 34 official village names. The bill would adopt those names. The names of the villages are Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, Wireless, Talofofo, Lower Base, As Mahetog, Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman, Papago, Tapochao, Navy Hill, Garapan, Gualo Rai, I Liyan, Chalan Laulau, Oleai, Chalan Kiya, Kanat Tabla, San Vicente, Dandan, As Lito, Finasisu, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao, As Perdido, San Antonio, Koblerville, I Naftan, and Susupe.

The places or areas in the various villages as listed shall retain their common names but are not integrated in the standard village delimitation and name master map.

Yangetmai

In the legislation, Villagomez cited as an example the village of Marpi, with references to San Juan, Banderu, etc. and are considered sub-areas of Marpi Village. This places will retain their common names but will not be included in the official list of names on the name master map of Saipan.

Villagomez said sub-areas are not used for purposes of identifying the name of a village or village boundary on the standard village delimitation and name master map.

He said that identifying a village by name is critical in responding to emergency calls, as arriving at a specific site in minutes is a matter of saving a person's life.

He said for many years, the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division has been tasked with carrying out the decennial census under the supervision of the U.S. Census Bureau, and has used a statistical map to describe boundaries that separate one village from another. He said its statistical map also identifies the various areas within the boundaries by name, giving an area its specific village name.

While residents and businesses enjoy door delivery of mail orders, couriers use local directions to locate a physical address, which is inefficient for couriers that are concerned with the cost of delivery, Villagomez said.

By clearly identifying the village delimitation and name, timely and accurate delivery of mails and packages to a specific site would be greatly enhanced, he added.

In the interest of time, the mayor of each municipality shall be granted the authority and power to adopt the standard village identification and delimitation master map for the municipality served by the mayor within 180 days after the effective date of this bill.

Villagomez said the Legislature has received the master map from the mayor of Saipan and it is the intent of the bill to adopt the master map.

US Marines, sailors help Palau youth summer program

NGEREMLENGUI, Republic of Palau—U.S. Marines and sailors with Task Force Koa Moana 22 recently volunteered to work with the Palau National Police Force in a youth summer program that taught skills aimed to instill basic tenets of discipline and camaraderie.

The vvolunteers also participated in physical training with the youth, demonstrating the importance of health and wellness through physical activity and drill movements.

The program, called the Omesuub Ngosisechakl Emesmechokl Law Enforcement Explorers Program, provides a way to keep young adults productive in a safe environment, with participants ranging from ages 6 to 17. It lasted from June 19 to 24.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. SAMUEL FLETCHER

U.S. Marines and sailors with Task Force Koa Moana 22, I Marine Expeditionary Force, pose for a group photo with the children participating in the Division of Juvenile Justice's Omesuub Ngosisechakl Emesmechokl Law Enforcement Explorers Program in Ngeremlengui, Republic of Palau, June 20, 2022.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. SAMUEL FLETCHER

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Francisco Pallanes Aleho, a landing support specialist with Task Force Koa Moana 22, I Marine Expeditionary Force, describes his career in the Marine Corps to the children participating in the Division of Juvenile Justice's Omesuub Ngosisechakl Emesmechokl Law Enforcement Explorers Program in Ngeremlengui, Republic of Palau, June 20, 2022.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. SAMUEL FLETCHER

U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Bennett Shelton poses for a group photo with the children participating in the Division of Juvenile Justice's Omesuub Ngosisechakl Emesmechokl Law Enforcement Explorers Program in Ngeremlengui, Republic of Palau, June 22, 2022.

"It was a great opportunity to immerse in the community and work with the local youth around us," said U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Samuel Fletcher, a volunteer from Task Force Koa Moana 22. "Our team jumped at the idea to work alongside the local law enforcement and help impact the community we have been with."

"Our goal as instructors is to instill discipline, integrity, honesty, and moral standards that they can learn and use in their daily lives," said cadet Obak J. Mad, an instructor with the 28th Basic Police Academy. "Having Marines volunteer was beneficial because it inspired the youth, and what better way to set the example to the youth than to teach them some of the Marine Corps core values."

The term "Omesuub Ngosisechakl Emesmechokl" translates to "learning, teaching, instruction, and to put things in order." The mission of the O.N.E. LEEP program is "to direct oneself toward a life free of crime through teachings and living by standards that create a safe and stable livelihood and community."

The O.N.E. LEEP program uses role models who volunteer to help teach the participants, run the camp activities, and demonstrate behavior worth modeling. Throughout the week, the participants learned about Palauan traditions, leadership skills, and productive ways to contribute to their communities.

Marines and sailors from Task Force Koa Moana 22 are in the Republic of Palau from June to August 2022. Named "Koa Moana" after a Hawaiian/Polynesian phrase meaning "ocean warrior," the task force is designed to strengthen and reinforce relationships between the U.S. and partner nations in the Indo-Pacific region and enhance interoperability with local security establishments in support of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command strategic and operational objectives. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

26th Liberation Day Parade

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Companies need to get real about climate risk

For decades, U.S. companies have been making a significant omission in their financial statements: They've failed to recognize and disclose the full cost of climate change. This matters not only for the planet's future, but also for investors today. It makes some businesses look more profitable than they really are, and it prevents others from realizing the value of new and greener opportunities.

The Securities and Exchange Commission wants to address this by requiring better disclosure of climate-related costs and risks. With some minor adjustments, its proposal is an excellent idea.

Many of the world's largest companies trumpet their commitment to the environment, producing glossy annual reports loaded with facts and figures. But these efforts often lack rigor and they can be hard to compare across entities and industries. Hence, investors have been clamoring for more consistency and accountability. To that end, initiatives such as the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (chaired by Michael Bloomberg, founder and majority owner of the parent company of Bloomberg News) have developed global reporting standards, and regulators around the world are working to make them mandatory.

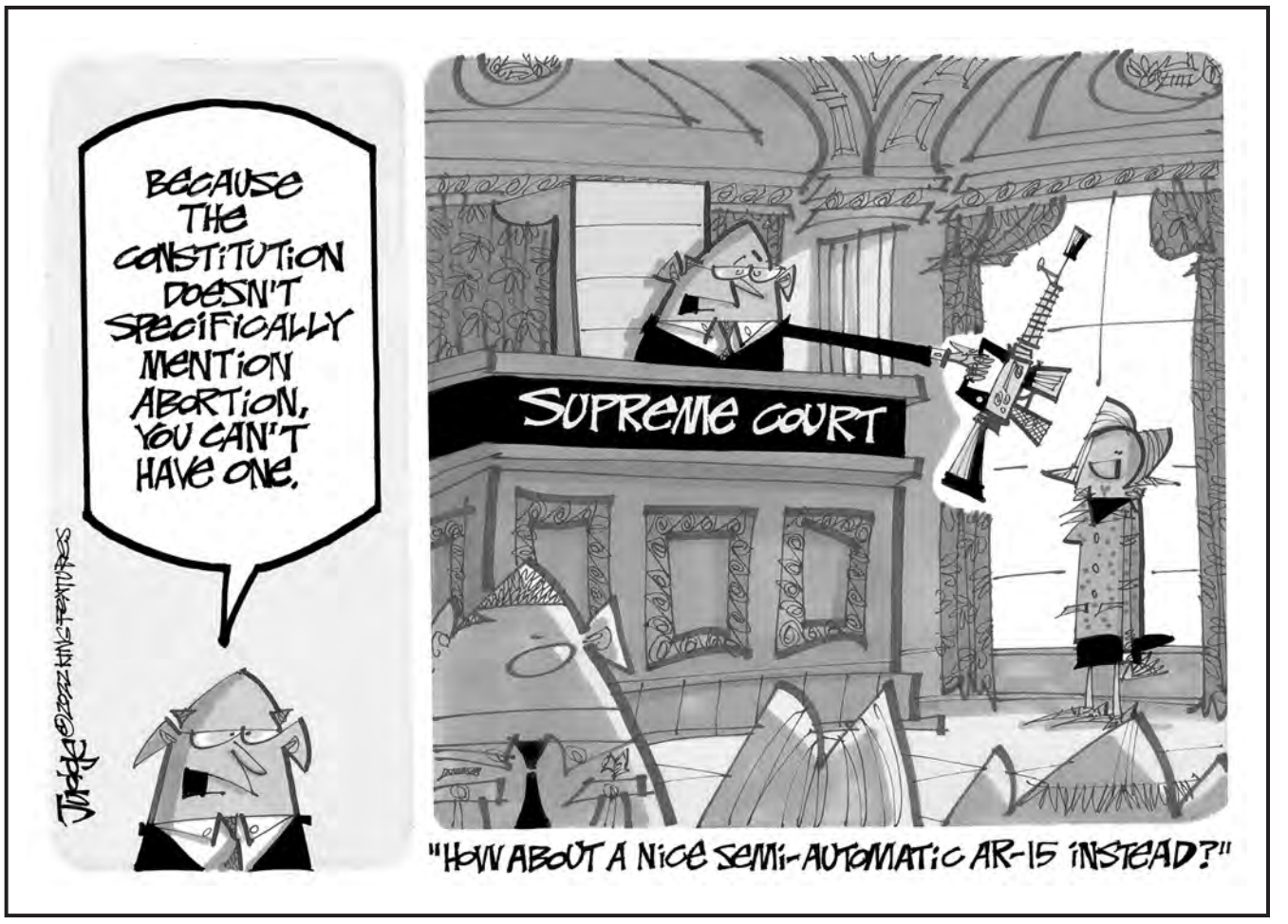
The SEC's proposal hews close to the TCFD's recommendations. It would require publicly traded companies to describe how their boards and executives manage climate-related risks, such as natural disasters and the transition to greener energy; disclose risks that they deemed "material," or relevant to a reasonable investor; report the dollar impact of any climate-related event that altered a financial-statement line item by more than 1%; and produce audited estimates of greenhouse-gas emissions from their own operations and energy purchases—as well as, in many cases, unaudited estimates for the rest of their supply chains.

Unfortunately, this sensible effort faces vehement opposition. Corporate lobbyists and their allies in Congress portray it as an unjustified power grab, imposing an excessively costly and legally fraught burden on companies to provide information that they're often not well equipped to collect. They're preparing to fight in court, arguing that the SEC has exceeded its statutory authority and possibly even violated the Constitution.

Although these criticisms are mostly overwrought, the SEC could make some adjustments to address reasonable concerns. In a few areas, for example, it could simplify the reporting requirements by allowing companies to decide what's relevant rather than prescribing exactly what to disclose. Investors don't necessarily need to know the ZIP codes of properties vulnerable to wildfires, or the names and qualifications of board members responsible for overseeing climate-related risks. Conversely, the effect of a hurricane on revenue might be material, even if it's less than 1%.

Beyond that, though, the SEC should stay the course. Requiring such disclosure falls well within its statutory mandate

See COMPANIES on Next Page


BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY MENTION ABORTION, YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE.
SUPREME COURT
"HOW ABOUT A NICE SEMI-AUTOMATIC AR-15 INSTEAD?"

Can America rebound after this cruel and oppressive abortion ruling?

By SHARON GRIGSBY
The Dallas Morning News

What already has been a terrible week for democracy ended in the darkest of days with the Supreme Court decision that the right to abortion, upheld for almost 50 years, no longer exists.

Everything in this country has turned inside out. We've lost all sense of normalcy.

Countless feminist voices have used "The Handmaid's Tale," Margaret Atwood's 1985 novel of women's reproductive oppression, as a clarion call to where we were headed.

The images of those dystopian victims, clad in red cloaks and white face-concealing bonnets, have never felt more of the moment than today.

Looking at the last few news cycles, it's no wonder many of us feel we've lost our country and perhaps are no longer even safe here.

We've seen Texas Republicans officially brand LBGTQ citizens as "abnormal" and President Joe Biden an "acting" commander-in-chief not "legitimately elected."

Then came another round of sickening revelations out of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, the latest involving the threats made against public servants as then-President Donald Trump and his allies sought to overturn the election.

Thursday brought a Supreme Court ruling that expands gun rights nationwide at a time when sensible Americans are trying to figure out how to stop mass shootings.

And now those same justices have overthrown Roe v. Wade, meaning that about half the 50 states will roll back abortion rights immediately and others can quickly follow.

It's shameful that the section of the Supreme Court that claims to be the most conservative, which would imply respect for self-governance and self-sufficiency, would so undermine a person's right to make decisions about her own body.

Such hypocrisy. And another reminder as we approach July Fourth that the statement was literal: All men are created equal.

It feels these justices are just making it up as they go—or making it up, no matter its inconsistencies—to suit their political purposes.

As devastating as this decision is for women, at least just as bad was Justice Clarence Thomas' threat, made in his concurring opinion, that the court should reconsider rulings that protect access to same-sex relationships and same-sex marriage.

The first friend I called after seeing the news bulletin was on the phone with her lesbian daughter who, through her sobs, asked her mom, "What's going to happen to me? I'm gay in Texas."

My friend was at a loss. "To have your child ask you that, it is so disgusting and devastating."

Another tragedy of today's ruling is that it will only perpetuate and exacerbate the economic divide in this country.

Women with financial means will secure abortions in those states where the procedure remains legal. The poor will endanger themselves by trying to find a way to end their pregnancy illegally or give birth to a child that, along with the mother, suffers the consequences.

We have known this day was coming, especially since a draft of the decision leaked out in early May. But again the actual news is no less horrifying, cruel and oppressive.

It's a sense of betrayal, of insult, of being thrown back to a long, long time ago. Back to when society dictated that women had to live with the way things were—to shut up and put up with whatever was dished out.

A vital protection is about to be taken away and replaced by the criminalization of women who already are in a desperate situation. It feels like, as a group, we are now less than other citizens.

We have been denied the same dignity and autonomy that men enjoy to control our own lives.

As the fight moves to the state level, we can only hope that these same "states' rights" advocates will be as respectful of those that pass abortion-rights protections as those that oppose them.

Perhaps the overturn of Roe will galvanize abortion rights proponents to organize and fight as effectively as the other side has done in the decades after abortion became legal.

It's even possible that this is such a radical ruling that it will cause people who consider themselves "in the middle moderates" on the abortion issue to rise up and push back against it.

History has shown that when the body politic moves radically in either direction, a commensurate response builds in subsequent years to slow or reverse that radicalism.

But that discussion is for another day.

Today is for contemplating the loss of the fragile autonomy women so needed to hold onto. As I've said before, it takes two

See AMERICA on Next Page

POINT:

James Madison would love it

By BILL O'BRIEN
InsideSources.com

Bill O'Brien is a former New Hampshire speaker of the House and chairman of the Pine Street Public Policy Institute. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

When the U.S. Constitution was ratified June 21, 1788, the two men most responsible for its success were Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, who, along with John Jay, wrote The Federalist Papers.

Four years later, they had markedly different approaches to interpreting the document they helped create.

Hamilton, perhaps because he wanted a national bank that wasn't mentioned in the Constitution along with an active central government, came to interpret the Constitution as being open-ended: If something isn't prohibited by the document, it is allowed—or as he and his Federalist friends might have put it, implied.

By contrast, the Father of the Constitution, James Madison, along with friends like Thomas Jefferson, viewed the Constitution as a limiting document: If something is not expressly stated in the Constitution, it is prohibited.

More than two centuries later, the debate between Hamilton and Madison continues to define the two opposing schools of constitutional interpretation. As of June 24, 2022, when the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision was published and Roe v. Wade was overturned, it's clear Madison won.

Q: What would the Founding Fathers think of the Supreme Court's Dobbs ruling?

One of those schools, and the one that prevailed in the Dobbs decision, is referred to as textualism or, as it is sometimes called, originalism. Madison would have argued for textualism/originalism by describing what we usually do when we look at words and try to figure out their meaning. The textualist/originalist approach first asks judges to apply the text—do what the words say. But it recognizes words can be unclear when applied to varying circumstances. In that event, the originalism part of the approach says to look beyond the words but only to ask what was intended by those who chose—and those who ratified—those words. They can tell you what they meant.

The second school of constitutional interpretation, the Hamilton method, goes beyond limiting rights to what was said and what was intended. This approach, which could be called the Humpty Dumpty school of constitutional interpretation, was best expressed by Humpty himself. You will recall Alice asked him in "Alice in Wonderland" "whether you can make words mean so many different things." Humpty's response was that words were not his master. Instead, he said that when he uses a word "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

Now it was conceded by Justice Harry Blackmun in his majority opinion in Roe v. Wade that there were no constitutional words expressly conveying a right to abortion or even any suggestion of an original intent to convey such a right. But the words were not going to be his master. Instead, he agreed with Humpty Dumpty that it was permissible to shift meanings and invent a constitutional right to an abortion. The lack of an expressed instructional prohibition on abortions was claimed in Roe to permit the finding of a constitutional right to abortion.

It was the Humpty Dumpty logic of Roe v. Wade that led the majority in Dobbs to decide that the question of abortion in our country had a great fall and could not be put together again. Instead, the Dobbs court, recognizing the lack of a constitutional basis for the Roe decision, returned the issue of abortion to the state for legislative resolution.

The Dobbs majority said legislators have to put this together. James Madison would have approved.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Both Dems and GOP need to find solutions

Problems for Democrats: Baby formula shortage, inflation, gas prices, Supreme Court decisions, Ukraine, gun control, COVID-19 vaccines, and prescription drug pricing. The real problem with the Democrats is that they promise so much but don't deliver much. On the other hand, Republicans (under the influence of former president Trump) continue with lies and misinformation and "alternative news," thereby resulting in a politically and emotionally divided nation. Clearly, they seem to favor a dictatorship over a democracy. As an independent voter I sincerely hope Trump backers wake up and vote these miscreants out of office.

Both parties need to come up with programs to help American citizens who are hurting because of weak leadership. I wish President Biden good health for the rest of his term. The consequences could be disastrous!

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

COMPANIES

From Page 8

to protect investors and "promote efficiency, competition and capital formation"—and there's plenty of precedent for Congress to delegate such authority. Hundreds of companies already make similar disclosures, and the proposal offers the rest plenty of time to figure it out. The SEC estimates the ongoing compliance costs at several hundred thousand dollars a year on average—but the incremental cost will be minimal for the many companies that already disclose, and in any case the investment is tiny compared with the potential consequences of sticking with the status quo.

No doubt, full financial recognition of climate change will be a challenge for corporate America, creating new winners and losers. The sooner the process gets started, the less disruptive it will be.

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COUNTERPOINT:

What would Founders think of the Dobbs decision? Not much

By MICHAEL S. LEWIS
InsideSources.com

Michael S. Lewis is a senior litigator at Rath, Young and Pignatelli in Concord, N.H., and is an adjunct professor of law at Vermont Law School and UNH School of Law. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

What would the Founders think of the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs? Say we do what Bill and Ted did in their "Excellent Adventure." We jump into a phone-booth-shaped time machine and travel back to 1776 to find Thomas Jefferson and ask him about Dobbs. I see at least two possibilities.

In the first, we encounter the Evil Jefferson. He turns out to be an unrepentant former slaveholder, aghast that women of all races had the right to vote in modern America. In the second, we encounter the Hero Jefferson. This Jefferson reads Dobbs in the vein of the vaunted revolutionary we've come to mythologize because he wrote that our freedom is unalienable despite what encroaching governments might say.

The Hero Jefferson shakes his head in anger that the passage of two and half centuries has done so little to cause federal courts to exercise power to protect people from authoritarian government.

Both Jeffersons, and more, are possible. In determining which Jefferson to honor, we must exercise judgment. We must judge one Jefferson as "evil" and make one Jefferson "the hero" for reasons that would cause us to decide which founding perspective to accept as good authority.

Dobbs, which raises to authority some early American history about the legality of abortion, appears indifferent, at best. It would consider the Evil Jefferson and the Hero Jefferson equally authoritative if it could only verify the existence of one rather than the other. And so Dobbs does not care if it infects constitutional law with evil history—including history so evil that more recent generations had to take action, legislative and judicial, to inoculate us from it.

We are not the same country the Founders forged by law or fact. We are more perfect because of it. No doubt it was world-shaking when some Founders declared independence in 1776 and adopted the state and federal constitutions in the decade or so that followed. Yet, as Justice Thurgood Marshall observed during the bicentennial 200 years later, "(T)he government they devised was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war, and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government, and its respect for individual freedoms and human rights, we hold as fundamental today."

That transformation included the very recent—and still partial—recognition of women as citizens with rights. Jefferson's Declaration of Independence spoke only of men in 1776. One hundred years passed and, still, in 1868, the 14th Amendment failed to mention women while constitutionalizing equality for men. Women could not participate in these enactments because they did not have the right to vote until 1919, a historical fact whose distorting influence on the law the Dobbs court's undifferentiated acceptance of history fails to fully confront. It was only in 1996 that the court recognized equality for women under the 14th Amendment in United States v. Virginia.

Dobbs entrenches this long history of political subjugation as an authority by failing to judge it evil. To it, the jurisprudence and changed attitudes of the past half-century, a half-century in which the rights of women to vote and hold office first took root, is an aberration. If this is judgment, it is bad judgment.

Let me cast my own judgment. As we celebrate Thomas Jefferson and July 4, I'd like to imagine that a Better Jefferson would read Dobbs and express concern. He would wonder that a country forged in revolution would continue to appoint judges hidebound to the views of a distant and evil past, a past he sought to retire by memorializing the rights of people against tyranny at the risk of his life and the lives of his contemporaries.

To choose this Jefferson is to admit I am making a choice, a freedom I treasure for as long as I still have it. Dobbs doesn't believe there is a choice. On this weekend where we celebrate freedom, would you really want to celebrate Founders who'd agree?

AMERICA

From Page 8

people to create an embryo, and only the female half is forced to bear the onus of the unwanted pregnancy.

My large circle of friends includes several women who are praying their gratitude today for what they believe is a righteous decision. They tell me the abortion issue is about children—helpless babies, just like their own.

If only it were that simple.

If only everyone who cares so deeply about fetuses followed their anti-abortion votes with votes for politicians who genuinely care what happens to those children after they are born. If only they spent a day up close with the reality of women who feel abortion is the best choice.

My phone has blown up with calls and texts from women of all ages. Most speak of being overwhelmed and heartbroken. Of not even reading the news because it's so upsetting. One simply read: "What to say? I love you both."

Having lived through a lot of mean, uncompromising history, I recall days darker than this one.

But America always rebounded to a place I recognized.

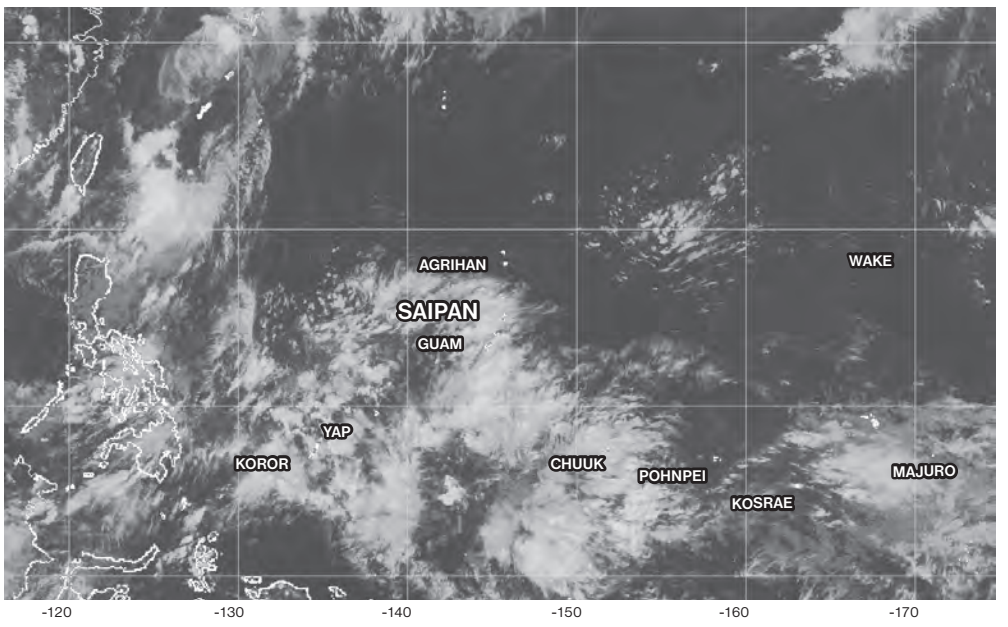
After this week's drumbeat of harmful developments on so many fronts, I'm just not confident that will happen this time.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
86° 76°	88° 79°	87° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:33 AM, MONDAY, JULY 4, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and brief thunderstorms are once again found across the Marianas this morning as a weak trade-wind disturbance passes through. Trade winds have diminished a bit and are now gentle, but seas are still 4 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:41 AM	11:17 PM	-
Wednesday	11:30 AM	11:54 PM	-
Thursday	12:20 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:31 AM	1:13 PM
Saturday	-	1:12 AM	2:09 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 59°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°
London	Sunny	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°
New York	Showers	53° / 36°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 32°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:25 AM	High Tide	2.01
6:21 AM	Low Tide	1.31
10:45 AM	High Tide	1.73
5:51 PM	Low Tide	0.35

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

After two pandemic years, a summer travel bounce—and chaos

By LAURIE KELLMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM (AP)—At a tourism conference in Phuket last month, Thailand's prime minister looked out at attendees and posed a question with a predictable answer.

"Are you ready?" Prayuth Chan-ocha asked, dramatically removing his mask and launching what's hoped to be the country's economic reset after more than two years of coronavirus-driven restrictions. When the crowd yelled its answer—yes, according to local media—it might have been speaking for the entire pandemic-battered world.

But a full recovery could take as long as the catastrophe itself, according to projections and interviews by The Associated Press in 11 countries in June. They suggest that the hoped-for rebound is less like a definitive bounce—and more like a bumpy path out of a deep and dark cave.

Some locales, such as the French Riviera and the American Midwest, are contributing to the climb more than others—like shuttered, "zero-COVID" China, which before the pandemic was the world's leading source of tourists and their spending.

The human drive to bust out and explore is helping fuel the ascent, packing flights and museums despite rising coronavirus infections and inflation. But economic urgency is the real driver for an industry worth $3.5 trillion in 2019 that the United Nations estimates lost about that much during the pandemic. By some estimates, tourism provides work for one in 10 people on Earth.

Many places, particularly those that have loosened safety requirements, are seeing what passes for a go-go summer of sunny optimism and adventure.

"They are saying it's the summer of revenge travel," Pittsburgh resident Theresa Starta, 52, said as she gazed across one of Amsterdam's canals at crowds thronging to the Dutch capital. "Everything seems so bad all around the world, so it's nice to see some things coming back."

"The road to a full recovery is very long, but at least we are back on it," said Sanga Ruangwattanakul, president of the Khao San Road Business Association in Bangkok.

Despite the roaring return of travelers, challenges and uncertainty cast shadows over the post-pandemic landscape. Full recoveries are generally not expected until at least 2024. Concerns hovered around a long list of issues, including inflation, supply chain problems, rising infection rates and labor shortages.

Before June was over, chaos had come to define travel in the summer of 2022. Airports and airlines that had cut back during the depths of the pandemic s truggled to meet the demand, resulting in cancelled flights, lost baggage and other, assorted nightmares. Spooked tourists booked trips on shorter notice, making it harder for hotels, tour operators and others to plan, industry insiders said.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, too, added risk to the uneven recovery and contributed to inflation—a factor that could become a major obstacle even as other pandemic pain recedes.

"It's really the fall season that is of concern," said Sandra Carvao, chief of market intelligence and competitiveness at the U.N. World Tourism Organization. If inflation continues to rise, particularly interest rates, "families will have to rethink their spending."

For all of the lifted virus travel restrictions, safety is not likely to recede as a concern.

"The most important thing for people when they decide to go on vacation is health and safety. Always has been," said Simon Hudson, a professor of tourism at the University of South Carolina, who is writing a book about the pandemic recovery. "This is going to take awhile."

Starting with the bright spots, the U.N. reported that during the first quarter of 2022, international arrivals almost tripled over the same three months last year. March this year produced the healthiest results since the start of the pandemic, with arrivals climbing to nearly 50% of 2019 levels. That could rise to as much as 70% of 2019 arrivals by the end of this year, the UNWTO said in projections it revised in May.

That's produced encouraging signs in certain places, from Israel to the United States, Italy, Mexico and France. Resets like Thailand's are all the rage. Big plans for 2023 are in the offing in the United States, such as a cruise featuring some of Broadway's biggest stars.

Those projections are playing out on the ground, generally in places that had aggressive and agile restrictions early-on and adapted by lifting many protections as vaccinations rose and the omicron variant proved less lethal than other variants.

Foreign tourists are flocking to places like the French Riviera, where supply-chain issues are making everything more expensive—including champagne, one restauranteur said.

"It's been summer here since spring, every single night," said Elie Dagher, a manager of La Villa Massenet in Nice. Since April, he said, the bistro has been packed with visitors from Scandinavia and the Netherlands, but especially the United Kingdom and the United States.

In Branson, Missouri, known for its country music shows and outdoor attractions, no rebound is necessary. It hosted a record 10 million visitors last year and appears to be on pace to top that, said Lynn Berry, spokeswoman for the Branson Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Jeff Johnson, co-owner of Shepherd of the Hills adventure park, attributes that to a short shutdown in 2020, a loyal customer base drawn from nearby states and cities like St. Louis and Kansas City. "When we reopened," he said, "it never slowed down."

In Italy, tourists—especially from the United States—returned this year in droves. The run-up to Easter was especially notable in Rome, reflecting pent-up demand to visit perennial all-star sites like the Sistine Chapel and the Colosseum.

"There's a huge craving to travel, just like popping a (cork) from a bottle," said Bernabò Bocca, president of the national hotel association Federalberghi. The moment Italy loosened safety measures in April, "a tsunami of bookings arrived from the United States at a speed never seen before."

Hopes are high for Thailand, too, in the wake of its announcement last month that the country was dropping virtually all requirements other than proof of vaccination, or in its absence, a negative coronavirus test.

Already the return of tourists has breathed new life into local tourism. Bangkok's famous backpacker street, Khao San Road, almost deserted last year, is getting up to 5,000 visitors a day—promising numbers but a far cry from the 30,000 daily visitors before the pandemic, according to Ruangwattanakul, the business association president.

Thailand is an instructive look at the struggle to recover, with China a major factor. By 2019, Chinese tourists accounted for a quarter of foreign arrivals in Thailand, but there are no signs that they will return in such numbers.

The fitful nature of the post-pandemic climb could be seen from Israel to India.

"I think we are moving in the right direction," said restaurant owner Vaibhav Khulbe in Dharmsala, India, where 4 million visitors are expected in country this year, compared to 11 million in 2019.

As elsewhere in the world, Israel is struggling to match its record-setting tourism of 2019, when 4.5 million people visited. Despite lifting all restrictions, Israel expects less than half that—about 2 million visitors—this year, Tourism Ministry officials say. Added to the other concerns, political strife is an issue after a wave of deadly Palestinian violence inside Israel in the spring, along with the collapse of the government last month.

Still, the ministry is reporting a steady, though gradual, climb. An unusual convergence of springtime religious holidays for Jews, Christians and Muslims helped boost visitors in April. By May, the number of visitors had risen to about 57% of the same month two years earlier.

But the recovery has been uneven for many, particularly in the occupied West Bank.

"We were expecting really more people to come at least this month, like May, June, but still it's very slow," said Wisam Salsaa, manager of The Walled Off Hotel in Bethlehem, the storied ancient city where President Joe Biden is expected to visit in July during a trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Designed by London-based artist Banksy and brimming with color, the hotel is locally run and well-known—but struggling. It expanded physically during the pandemic but has been forced to whittle its staff from about 50 people to 32 now. In June, its occupancy rate stood at about 30%.

"Tourism here," Salsaa said, "is very fragile."

Nation

Video shows Akron police kill Black man in hail of gunfire

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—A Black man was unarmed when Akron police chased him on foot and killed him in a hail of gunfire, but officers believed he had shot at them earlier from a vehicle and feared he was preparing to fire again, authorities said Sunday at a news conference.

Akron police released video of the shooting of Jayland Walker, 25, who was killed June 27 in a pursuit that had started with an attempted traffic stop. The mayor called the shooting "heartbreaking" while asking for patience from the community.

It's not clear how many shots were fired by the eight officers involved, but Walker sustained more than 60 wounds. An attorney for Walker's family said officers kept firing even after he was on the ground.

Officers attempted to stop Walker's car around 12:30 a.m. for unspecified traffic and equipment violations, but less than a minute into a pursuit, the sound of a shot was heard from the car, and a transportation department camera captured what appeared to be a muzzle flash coming from the vehicle, Akron Police Chief Steve Mylett said. That changed the nature of the case from "a routine traffic stop to now a public safety issue," he said.

Police body camera videos show what unfolded after the roughly six-minute pursuit. Several shouting officers with guns drawn approach the slowing car on foot, as it rolls up over a curb and onto a sidewalk. A person wearing a ski mask exits the passenger door and runs toward a parking lot. Police chase him for about 10 seconds before officers fire from multiple directions, in a burst of shots that lasts 6 or 7 seconds.

AP

Javon Williams, 13, is comforted by Rev. Jaland Finney, left, as he speaks during a march and rally for Jayland Walker, Sunday, July 3, 2022, in Akron, Ohio. Also pictured at center right is Lanette Williams, reacting after Javon's speech.

At least one officer had tried first to use a stun gun, but that was unsuccessful, police said.

Mylett said Walker's actions are hard to distinguish on the video in real time, but a still photo seems to show him "going down to his waist area" and another appears to show him turning toward an officer. He said a third picture "captures a forward motion of his arm."

In a statement shared Sunday with reporters, the local police union said the officers thought there was an immediate threat of serious harm, and that it believes their actions and the number of shots will be found justified in line with their training and protocols. The union said the officers are cooperating with the investigation.

Police said more than 60 wounds were found on Walker's body but further investigation is needed to determine exactly how many rounds the officers fired and how many times Walker was hit.

The footage released by police ends with the officers' gunfire and doesn't show what happened next. Officers provided aid, and one can be heard saying Walker still had a pulse, but he was later pronounced dead, Mylett said.

The chief said an officer firing at someone has to be "ready to explain why they did what they did, they need to be able to articulate what specific threats they were facing ... and they need to be held to account." But he said he is withholding judgment on their actions until they give their statements.

31 bodies, some decomposing, found at Indiana funeral home

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. (AP)—Police are investigating after more than 30 bodies, some decomposing, were found inside a southern Indiana funeral home.

Police in the Louisville suburb of Jeffersonville responded to Lankford Funeral Home and Family Center on Friday evening and found 31 bodies, including some "in the advanced stages of decomposition," Maj. Isaac Parker said.

He said the county coroner's office had reported a strong odor emanating from the building. Inside, officers wearing hazmat gear found bodies "in different places around the building." Some of the bodies had been at the funeral home since March, Parker said. Police also found the cremated remains of 16 people.

"It was a very unpleasant scene," Parker said. "The conditions were not good."

The owner of the funeral home has been speaking with police since Friday, Parker said, and an investigation is ongoing.

The owner did not immediately respond to an email from the Associated Press seeking comment Sunday.

The remains were taken to the Clark County Coroner's Office for identification, and police asked anyone who may have information to contact the coroner's office.

A woman who sent her brother's body to the funeral home for cremation after he died in April told WHAS-TV that she is still waiting for his remains. Tara Owen said when she reached out to the funeral director, he responded that he was "dealing with a lot at the moment."

Gunman fatally shoots 2, wounds 3 Texas cops, takes own life

By TERRY WALLACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A gunman killed two people and wounded four others, including three police officers, before taking his own life at a home in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, police said Sunday.

Wounds suffered by the four survivors were not life-threatening, police said.

The incident happened about 6:45 p.m. Saturday when officers were answering a report of shots fired in a Haltom City neighborhood, Sgt. Rick Alexander said Sunday. Killed at the reported address were Collin Davis, 33, and Amber Tsai, 32, Alexander said.

Tsai was found dead inside the house, while Davis was found dead outside, Alexander said. An older woman who called 911 but was not otherwise identified also suffered a non-life-threatening wound, he said.

Security video shot from a neighboring house screened at a Sunday news conference showed three officers approaching the address when rapid gunfire erupted, wounding three officers. Officers returned fire as the gunman fled the house through a back door. Tracked by air, the gunman identified as 28-year-old Edward Freyman shot himself, Alexander said. Freyman was found with a "military-style rifle" and a handgun, he said.

"This was an ambush situation," Police Chief Cody Phillips said, adding that if officers "were not prepared for the situation, it would have been a lot worse."

The gunman and the two people he killed knew one another, but their relationships were not immediately clear, Phillips said.

The wounded officers were Cpl. Zach Tabler and Officers Tim Barton and Jose Avila. Tabler was wounded in the arm, hand and leg; Barton was wounded in the leg; and Avila was wounded in both legs, Phillips said. Barton was treated at a hospital and released Sunday, Phillips said, while Tabler was recovering from surgery and Avila was awaiting surgery.

Jan. 6 panel: More people turn up with evidence against Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—More witnesses are coming forward with new details on the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot following former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson's devastating testimony last week against former President Donald Trump, says a member of a House committee investigating the insurrection.

The panel already has subpoenaed former White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who investigators remain hopeful will appear Wednesday for a deposition, and said it would also welcome follow-up details from Secret Service members with Trump that day.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., cited Hutchinson's testimony that Trump wanted to join an angry mob that marched to the Capitol on Jan. 6 where they rioted as particularly valuable in "inspiring" more people to step forward as the committee gets set for at least two public hearings this month.

"Every day we get new people that come forward and say, 'Hey, I didn't think maybe this piece of the story that I knew was important,'" he said Sunday. "There will be way more information and stay tuned."

The committee has been intensifying its yearlong investigation into the attack on Jan. 6, 2021, and Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election. The next hearings will aim to show how Trump illegally directed a violent mob toward the Capitol on Jan. 6, and then failed to take quick action to stop the attack once it began. Over the weekend, Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the committee's vice chair, made clear that criminal referrals to the Justice Department, including against Trump, could follow.

The committee also has been reviewing new documentary film footage of Trump's final months in office, including interviews with Trump and members of his family.

Kinzinger, in a television interview, declined to disclose the new information he referred to and did not say who had provided it. He said nothing had changed the committee's confidence in her credibility.

"There's information I can't say yet," he said. "We certainly would say that Cassidy Hutchinson has testified under oath, we find her credible, and anybody that wants to cast disparagements on that, who were firsthand present, should also testify under oath and not through anonymous sources."

In a separate interview, another committee member, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said: "We are following additional leads. I think those leads will lead to new testimony."

Asia

4th rescued after China ship sinks

HONG KONG (AP) — A fourth crew member has been rescued Monday after a storm sunk an engineering vessel two days earlier, according to a Chinese state broadcaster.

The crew member's situation is stable and rescue work is still ongoing, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

The latest rescued crew was part of a 30-strong crew on board the Fujing 001, a China-registered floating crane, that was involved in building several offshore wind farms, according to local media reports.

The vessel snapped into two and sank on Saturday during the tropical storm Chaba, which had maximum sustained wind speeds of 110 kilometers (68 miles) per hour and was upgraded to a typhoon before making landfall in Guangdong province and Hong Kong.

Chaba hit Fujing 001 about 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Hong Kong.

As of Monday, 26 other crew members are missing and search and rescue operations are still underway.

Hong Kong authorities had dispatched planes and helicopters to aid in the rescue, but said that chances of rescuing the other crew alive were "slim."

'Philippines should rejoin int'l court'

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —Opposition leaders asked new Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday to restore the country's membership in the International Criminal Court to strengthen defenses against human rights abuses.

Former President Rodrigo Duterte, whose six-year term ended on Thursday, withdrew the country's ratification of the Rome Statute, the treaty which created the ICC, in 2019 after The Hague-based court launched a preliminary examination into thousands of killings during his campaign against illegal drugs.

Critics said Duterte's move was an attempt to evade accountability. However, the ICC prosecutor said the court still has jurisdiction over crimes alleged while the Philippines was still a member of the court.

"The more we are a member of communities of shared values of human rights, the better," Sen. Risa Hontiveros said, citing the prevalence of rights violations and extrajudicial killings in the country.

Detained former Sen. Leila de Lima said restoring ICC membership would improve the country's image and "protect people from crimes against humanity committed by state forces."

There was no immediate reaction from Marcos Jr.

De Lima, one of the fiercest critics of Duterte's anti-drug campaign, has been detained for five years on drug charges she said were fabricated by Duterte and his supporters to muzzle her and threaten other critics.

Arturo Lascanas, a retired police officer who earlier served under Duterte when he was mayor of southern Davao city, said as many as 10,000 drug suspects may have been killed in the city during Duterte's crackdown on drugs there.

Duterte expanded the crackdown nationwide after becoming president in mid 2016. Officials reported that more than 6,250 suspects were killed during his presidency.

Duterte has denied authorizing extrajudicial killings but has openly threatened drug suspects with death.

Lascanas, who has gone into hiding outside the Philippines, said in a video interview that he is ready to testify in a potential ICC trial and provide evidence that Duterte ordered and funded many killings in Davao. Lascanas said he and other Davao police officers were involved in killings ordered by Duterte.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus falls into deep ravine in southwest Pakistan, killing 19

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A passenger bus slid off a mountain road and fell into a deep ravine in heavy rain in southwest Pakistan on Sunday, killing 19 people and injuring 12 others, a government official said. Mahtab Shah, assistant administrator for the district of Shirani in Baluchistan province, said about 35 passengers were traveling in the bus. He said rescue workers were searching for survivors in the wreckage of the destroyed vehicle and surroundings. Shah said apparently the bus slid on the wet road amid heavy rain and the driver lost control of the vehicle, which fell about 200 feet (61 meters) into the ravine.

After 3 feet of rain, 32,000 in Sydney area may need to flee

SYDNEY (AP)—More than 30,000 residents of Sydney and its surrounds have been told to evacuate or prepare to abandon their homes on Monday as Australia's largest city braces for what could be its worst flooding in 18 months. Parts of the city of 5 million people are facing a fourth flooding emergency in a year and a half after torrential rain since Friday caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks. "The latest information we have is that there's a very good chance that the flooding will be worse than any of the other three floods that those areas had in the last 18 months," Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt told Australian Broadcasting Corp. The current flooding might affect areas that managed to stay dry during the previous floods, Watt added. New South Wales state Premier Dominic Perrottet said 32,000 people were impacted by evacuation orders and warnings.

With no fuel and no cash, Sri Lanka keeps schools closed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Cash-strapped Sri Lanka on Sunday extended school closures for one week because there isn't enough fuel for teachers and parents to get children to classrooms, and the energy minister appealed to the country's expatriates to send money home through banks to finance new oil purchases. A huge foreign debt has left the Indian Ocean island with none of the suppliers willing to sell fuel on credit. The available stocks, sufficient for only several days, will be provided for essential services, including health and port workers, public transport and food distribution, officials said. "Finding money is a challenge. It's a huge challenge," Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera told reporters. He said the government has ordered new fuel stocks and the first ship with 40,000 metric tons of diesel is expected to arrive on Friday while the first ship carrying gasoline would come on July 22.

World

3 dead, 3 critically wounded in shooting at Denmark mall

AP

An ambulance and armed police outside the Field's shopping center, in Orestad, Copenhagen, Denmark, Sunday, July 3, 2022, after reports of shots fired.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—A gunman opened fire inside a busy shopping mall in the Danish capital Sunday, killing three people and critically wounding three others, police said.

A 22-year-old Danish man was arrested after the shooting, Copenhagen police inspector Søren Thomassen told reporters, adding there was no indication that anyone else was involved in the attack, though police were still investigating.

Gun violence is relatively rare in Denmark.

Thomassen said it was too early to speculate on the motive for the shooting, which happened in the late afternoon at Field's, one of the biggest shopping malls in Scandinavia and located on the outskirts of the Danish capital. When the shots rang out, some people hid in shops while others fled in a panicked stampede, according to witnesses.

"It is pure terror. This is awful," said Hans Christian Stoltz, a 53-year-old IT consultant, who was bringing his daughters to see Harry Styles perform at concert scheduled for Sunday night near the mall. "You might wonder how a person can do this to another human being, but it's beyond … beyond anything that's possible."

Thomassen said the victims included a man in his 40s and two "young people," without giving details. Several others were injured, three of them critically, he said.

He said police received the first reports of a shooting at 5.37 p.m., and arrested the suspect 11 minutes later. Thomassen described the suspect as an "ethnic Dane," a phrase typically used to mean someone is white.

Danish broadcaster TV2 published a grainy photo of the alleged gunman, a man wearing knee-length shorts, a vest or sleeveless shirt, and holding what appeared to be a rifle in his right hand. "He seemed very violent and angry," eyewitness Mahdi Al-Wazni told TV2. "He spoke to me and said it (the rifle) isn't real as I was filming him. He seemed very proud of what he was doing."

Russia claims control of eastern Ukraine province

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia claimed control Sunday over the last Ukrainian stronghold in an eastern province that is key to achieving a major goal of Moscow's grinding war.

The General Staff of Ukraine's military reported that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk in Luhansk province. President Volodymr Zelenskyy acknowledged the withdrawal but said the fight for the city was still raging on its outskirts.

If confirmed, Russia's complete seizure of Luhansk would provide its troops with a stronger base from which to press their advance in the Donbas, a region of mines and factories that President Vladimir Putin is bent on capturing in a campaign that could determine the course of the entire war.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told Putin that Russia's troops, with a local separatist militia, "have established full control over the city of Lysychansk" and now hold all of Luhansk, according to a ministry statement published Sunday.

As is typical with such descriptions, the Russian statement characterized the victories as "the liberation of the Luhansk People's Republic." Separatists in Luhansk and neighboring Donetsk, which make up the Donbas and are home to significant Russian-speaking populations, declared independence from Kyiv in 2014 and their forces have battled Ukrainian troops there ever since. Russia formally recognized the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Ukrainian and Russian forces fought fiercely for Lysychansk in recent days after the neighboring city fell last week. On Sunday evening, the General Staff of Ukraine's military confirmed on social media that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk "to preserve the lives of Ukrainian defenders."

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelenskyy noted the withdrawal. But he added that "Ukraine does not give anything back" and vowed to return with more modern weapons. Citing his forces' success in recapturing other territory, he promised, "There will be a day when we will say the same about Donbas."

Overdrive

Buick tops JD Power Initial Quality Study as vehicle problems rise

By JORDYN GRZELEWSKI
THE DETROIT NEWS

General Motors Co.'s Buick brand topped J.D. Power's 2022 Initial Quality Study in a year in which pandemic-related disruptions caused overall results to decline.

That's according to data released Tuesday by the consumer insights, advisory services and data analytics firm. Initial vehicle quality "notably declined" during the pandemic, with disruptions such as supply-chain issues and personnel dislocations contributing to vehicle problems reaching a record high in the 36-year history of the study.

CLARENCE TABB, JR./THE DETROIT NEWS/TNS

Carl Black, 67, of Pontiac, observes a Buick Envision inside the showroom of LaFontaine GMC Buick Cadillac dealership in Highland, Michigan.

The automotive industry saw an 11% increase in problems per 100 vehicles (PP100) compared to 2021. This year's industry average of 180 PP100 was 18 PP100 worse than last year, according to the study. And just nine of 33 brands including in the ranking improved in vehicle quality from last year.

Still, GM had a strong showing, landing in the highest position among auto companies. Among models, Buick's quality improved 17 PP100 over last year, putting it at the top of the ranking after coming in 12th place last year. Meanwhile, Hyundai Motor Co.'s Genesis ranked highest among premium brands.

"Given the many challenges automakers and their dealers had to face in the past year, it's somewhat surprising that initial quality didn't fall even more dramatically," David Amodeo, director of global automotive at J.D. Power, said in a statement. "In general, initial quality has shown steady improvement throughout the history of this study, so the decline this year is disappointing —yet understandable. Automakers continue to launch vehicles that are more and more technologically complex in an era in which there have been many shortages of critical components to support them."

This year's results are based on responses from 84,165 purchasers and lessees of new 2022 model-year vehicles who were surveyed early in the ownership period. Fielded from February through May, the study is based on responses to 223 questions organized into nine vehicle categories: infotainment, features, controls and displays, exterior, driving assistance, interior, powertrain, seats, driving experience, and climate.

"Supply chain disruption, especially the shortage of microchips, has caused automakers to seek alternative solutions to get new vehicles into purchasers' and lessees' hands," said Amodeo. "In some cases, new vehicles are being shipped without some features installed. Communication with them about the changes in feature availability, as well as when such features will be reinstated, is critical to their satisfaction."

The decline in initial quality comes as new vehicle prices are at all-time highs: Average transaction prices for new vehicles increased 13.5% year over year to $47,148 in May, according to data released this month by Kelley Blue Book, a Cox Automotive company.

After Buick, which had a score of 139 PP100, Stellantis NV's Dodge came in second with 143 PP100 and GM's Chevrolet came in third with 147 PP100. The top three among premium brands were: Genesis, Lexus and Cadillac.

And GM took home the most model-level awards (nine) of all parent companies included in the ranking. Next came BMW AG with five, Hyundai Motor Group with three, while Ford Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp. tied with two.

The GM models that ranked highest in their respective segments were the: Buick Encore GX, Cadillac Escalade, Cadillac XT6, Chevrolet Corvette, Chevrolet Equinox, Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Silverado, Chevrolet Silverado HD and Chevrolet Tahoe. The Chevrolet Corvette was the highest-ranking model overall with 101 PP100.

J.D. Power found that the increase in initial quality problems applied to both all-new and existing models, though all-new models declined the most. The initial quality gap between all-new and existing models widened to 25 PP100.

And continuing a trend that J.D. Power traces to 2016, the study found that mass-market vehicles had fewer problems than premium cars, likely due to the added complexity of technology features in premium models. Still, Amodeo noted that premium brands Genesis and Lexus "have largely been able to avoid that issue."

Of the categories J.D. Power surveyed owners on, infotainment systems continue to be the most problematic, with an average of 45 PP100 — 19.5 PP100 more problems than the next-highest category. Six of the top 10 problem areas identified in the study are infotainment-related, including Android Auto/Apple Car Play connectivity issues with 5.8 PP100.

Australia prioritizes reducing emissions and cheaper EVs

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's new government is putting climate change at the top of its legislative agenda when Parliament sits next month for the first time since the May 21 election, with bills to enshrine a cut in greenhouse gas emissions and make electric cars cheaper, a minister said on Wednesday.

A bill will be introduced to commit Australia to reducing its emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 when Parliament sits on July 26, Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen told the National Press Club.

Another bill would abolish import tariffs and taxes for electric vehicles that are cheaper than the luxury car threshold of 77,565 Australian dollars ($53,580).

Only 1.5% of cars sold in Australia are electric or plug-in hybrid, and passenger cars account for almost 10% of the nation's emissions, the government said.

The new center-left Labor Party government expects EVs will account for 89% of Australian new car sales by 2030.

The government's fleet will be converted to 75% no-emission vehicles, bolstering a second-hand EV market as government vehicles are sold after three years.

The new government has already officially informed the United Nations of Australia's more ambitious 2030 target than the previous conservative Liberal Party-led administration had pursued, a reduction of 26% to 28%.

But Bowen said legislating the 43% target would create greater confidence.

"It's about certainty and stability, mainly for the business investment community," Bowen said.

Break into car, then break into garage?

Q: So, most new vehicles have a built-in programmable garage door opener. When the vehicle is locked and someone breaks into the vehicle, does the opener work?

A: Good question, but beyond my area of expertise. I turned to Liftmaster, a major maker of garage door openers.

"On some vehicles," Liftmaster's Kelly Shumaker said, "power is applied all the time to the UGDO (Universal Garage Door Opener). In this case, it's always operable no matter what state ignition is in.

With others, "power is applied only when ignition is on. In this case, UGDO won't work unless you have the key, or in the unlikely scenario that someone hot wires the car – which in modern vehicles is much harder to do. A newer option is a cloud-based system with which the driver has access to operate the garage door from almost anywhere."

"In this scenario your phone would be tethered in the vehicle So, you wouldn't be able to (open the door) unless the driver left their phone in the vehicle. Even when there's two layers of security, you need to be able to turn on the car and unlock the phone for this to work."

Q: A friend of mine from Colorado drives a Corvette. As you know, Corvette owners do not like front license plates, so he does not have one on. Well, he got stopped by the Colorado Highway Patrol. The trooper said, "Do you know why Colorado issues two plates?" His reply, and it did not go over well, was: "In case you lose one."

A: I have a hunch he got the trooper's autograph.

Q: I understand that "classic" vehicles are not required to have front license plates in Minnesota.

Thanks for a great column!

A: Many states issue only a single antique vehicle plate and it is often a one-time, not recurring, fee. There are usually restrictions on how far the vehicle may be driven, etc. But the good news is that the insurance premiums are often lower. Check with your state DMV for details. I had such a tag, but sold the 1986 Shelby Daytona Turbo Z. The tag now adorns my garage wall.

Q: Today I read your response to the man who has a daughter who is moving to South Dakota and asked what weight oil should she put in her car. You suggested 5W-30. But if the car maker says to use 5W-20 which most do, putting 5W-30 is not a good suggestion.

A: At the risk of sounding like a scratched vinyl disk upon which music was recorded, consult your owner's manual for the final word on what to use. It could even be 0W-20.

Q: We own a 2021 Honda CRV hybrid with adaptive cruise control, which keeps us a safe distance for a car in front while using it. According to the manual, it's for use over 40 mph and not recommended in stop and go traffic. Solve a disagreement between my husband and me. He insists on using ACC even while driving under 40 mph and in heavy traffic. I'm concerned it's doing something bad to the engine and/or transmission. What do you think ?

A: I think using it in heavy urban traffic is a safety issue. If operating the adaptive cruise control below 40 mph would cause damage, it would not function at those speeds. Don't skip your insurance payments.

MOTORMOUTH
By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Life & Style

Ricky Martin denies restraining order allegations

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin on Sunday denied allegations that led to a restraining order against him, with police noting that he has not been charged with any crime.

Police said Saturday that a judge had issued the order against Martin, but authorities trying to serve the order were unable to find the singer in the Puerto Rican town of Dorado, where he lives. The order was filed under Puerto Rico's domestic violence law and police spokesman Axel Valencia said he could not provide further details, including who requested the order.

Martin said in a tweet that the order is based on "completely false" allegations and that he will face the process "with the responsibility that characterizes me."

"I appreciate the innumerable gestures of solidarity and I receive them with all my heart," he wrote.

He said that since it was an open legal issue, he could not comment further.

Representatives for Martin earlier issued a statement and described the allegations as "completely false and fabricated." It did not name the representatives.

"We are very confident that when the true facts come out in this matter our client Ricky Martin will be fully vindicated," they said in a statement shared with The Associated Press.

Martin

El Vocero, a Puerto Rico newspaper, said the order states that Martin and the other person dated for seven months. The report quotes the order as saying they broke up two months ago, but the petitioner says Martin did not accept the separation and has been seen loitering near the petitioner's house at least three times.

"The petitioner fears for his safety," El Vocero quoted the order as saying.

AP has not obtained a copy of the order.

'Minions' set box office on fire with $108.5 million debut

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Families went bananas for Minions this weekend at the movie theater. " Minions: The Rise of Gru " brought in an estimated $108.5 million in ticket sales from 4,391 screens in North America, Universal Pictures said Sunday. By the end of the Monday's July Fourth holiday, it will likely have earned over $127.9 million.

The film is on track to become one of the biggest openings ever for a July Fourth holiday weekend, a record previously held by "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" which made $115.9 million in its first four days in 2011. Including international showings, where "Minions: The Rise of Gru" is playing in 61 markets, its worldwide gross is sitting at $202.2 million through Sunday.

"It's a tremendous debut," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "It's playing very broadly across North America. Every single market doing extraordinarily well."

This is just the latest in a string of successes for Universal's family releases, including "Sing 2," which has grossed over $406 million since opening in December, and "The Bad Guys," which has made over $243 million. "Minions: The Rise of Gru" serves as further proof that family audiences are willing to go back to the movie theater.

"Families feel very comfortable bringing all their kids to the theater," Orr said. "These results speak for themselves."

"Minions 2" attracted all ages to the theater, even the very young. According to PostTrak surveys, 12% were under the age of 10.

"For many months there was this idea that family audiences were not going to come back to the theater. We can put that to rest," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

The spinoff of the popular "Despicable Me" series was delayed two years because of the pandemic. The sequel to the 2015 film "Minions" was originally slated for a July 2020 release. While many other animated family films opted for streaming or hybrid releases, "Minions," much like "Top Gun: Maverick," stayed the course and waited for an ideal time to launch in theaters only. And as with "Top Gun" the wait, it seems, was worth it.

"This became an event. It was a holiday weekend, the release date was perfect, the marketing was spot on," Dergarabedian said. "And everyone knew this was going to be in theaters only."

The voice cast features Steve Carell, reprising his role as Gru, Alan Arkin, Michelle Yeoh and Julie Andrews as Gru's mother. Critics were mixed to positive (it currently has a 72% on Rotten Tomatoes) but audiences were more enthusiastic, giving the Gru origin story an A CinemaScore.

Universal and Illumination have had enormous success with the five "Despicable Me" movies and spinoffs, which date back to 2010 and have earned over $3.7 billion at the global box office.

In second place was "Top Gun: Maverick," which continues to deliver six weeks in, adding another $25.5 million to its total, which has already surpassed $1 billion. The Paramount Pictures film is still playing in 3,843 locations.

Warner Bros.' "Elvis" took third place, down only 39% in its second weekend in theaters. The Baz Luhrmann film grossed an estimated $19 million through Sunday, bringing its domestic total to $67.3 million.

Fourth and fifth place went to Universal titles as well with "Jurassic World: Dominion" picking up another $15.7 million and the horror movie "The Black Phone" adding $12.3 million through Sunday.

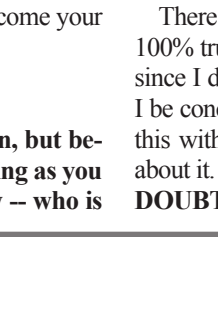
Feds: R. Kelly remains on suicide watch

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal authorities are pushing back on R. Kelly's claims that he was placed on suicide watch as a form of punishment last week after a judge sentenced him to 30 years behind bars for using his fame to sexually abuse young girls.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Brooklyn filed court papers late Saturday saying the disgraced R&B superstar remains on suicide watch "for his own safety" following a psychological assessment.

Kelly's "current life circumstances undoubtedly bring emotional distress," Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie Speight wrote in a court filing.

"He is a convicted sex offender who has been sentenced to spend the next three decades in prison," she added. "In the immediate future, he faces another federal criminal trial in Chicago for charges related to child pornography."


Kelly

Kelly's attorney filed a lawsuit Friday alleging prison officials placed him on suicide watch at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center "solely for punitive purposes and because of his status as a high-profile inmate," adding that Kelly has had no thoughts of harming himself.

"Nothing occurred during sentencing that came as a surprise to Mr. Kelly," attorney Jennifer Bonjean wrote in the lawsuit. "While the conditions of suicide watch may be appropriate for individuals who are truly at risk of hurting themselves, they are cruel and unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment for individuals who are not suicidal."

Kelly, 55, didn't give a statement and showed no reaction upon hearing his sentence, which also included a $100,000 fine.

The Grammy-winning, multi-platinum-selling songwriter was found guilty last year of racketeering and sex trafficking. He has denied wrongdoing, and he plans to appeal his conviction.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons has been under heightened scrutiny since financier Jeffrey Epstein killed himself behind bars in 2019 while awaiting trial on charges he sexually abused girls as young as 14 and young women in New York and Florida in the early 2000s.

Grandparents have opinions on what's best for young man

DEAR ABBY: Our 26-year-old, college-educated grandson, "Ethan," crashed his company car and was arrested for DWI and possession of more than a gram of cocaine. His mother hired a lawyer, posted bond and is taking full charge of the situation. Ethan lost his responsible job, and his girlfriend kicked him out. He has a sizable inheritance, enough to pay the lawyer and fine. Since he has never been in trouble before, we are hoping he won't go to jail.

Although we love Ethan dearly, his dad and I agree he should handle this on his own without his mother (who is recently divorced from our son) running to his rescue. Ethan also needs help with his addictions. He has enough 529 account funds to turn this serious mistake into an opportunity to return to college and get a master's degree.

I don't know how much to get involved, directly with Ethan or his mother. Though my wife and I are on good terms with his mother, it appears she doesn't want our advice. I welcome your suggestions on what to do.

UPSET GRANDDAD IN TEXAS

DEAR GRANDDAD: You can voice your opinion, but beyond that you should stay out of it. As well-meaning as you are, you can't force your former daughter-in-law -- who is in full mother mode -- or Ethan to abandon the path they are on. All you can do is point out the dangers they may encounter along the way and hope they will listen, however frustrating it may be.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I recently moved to a new area because his job was relocated. He was really excited to start this new adventure, and I was happy to come along. We've been together for 10 years (high school sweethearts), and we got engaged just before we moved.

I noticed he had been Snapchatting with someone. When I asked him about it, he refused to tell me who, but said I shouldn't be concerned. Eventually, he did tell me. It's a female co-worker. I don't know much about her other than she is recently divorced. I'm happy she's out of a bad situation, but I don't understand why she's Snapchatting my fiance. I also don't understand why he hid it from me until I made a big deal out of it.

There are other details about her—which I'm not sure are 100% true—that could change my point of view about this, but since I don't know her, they are hard for me to believe. Should I be concerned, or is my anxiety taking over? I'll be addressing this with him again, but I'm not going to blow up in his face about it.

DOUBTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR DOUBTING: I'm glad you're not going to blow up because all it would do is make your fiance defensive. You do, however, need to have a discussion with him about this co-worker. If you feel he hasn't been completely honest about her or her circumstances, and he has become secretive, recognize it as a huge red flag and proceed from there. Do not get married before this is resolved.

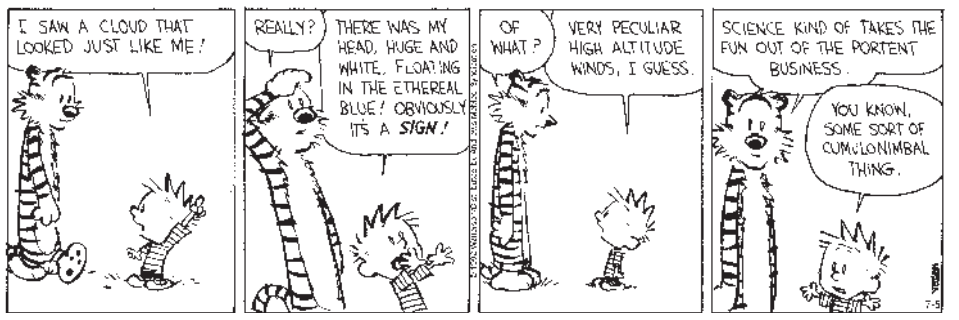
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

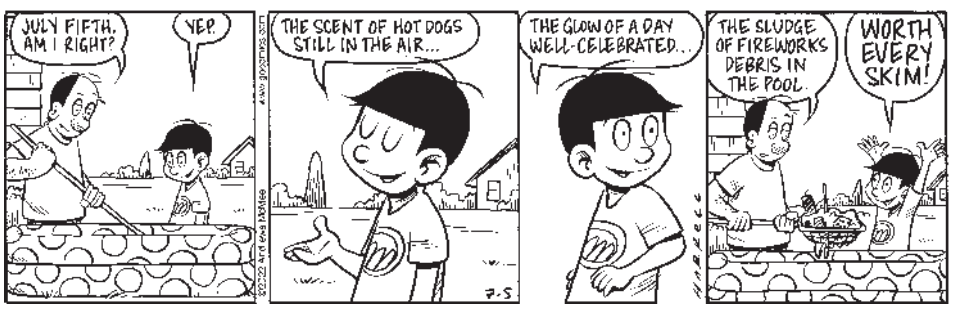

I SAW A CLOUD THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE ME!
REALLY?
THERE WAS MY HEAD, HUGE AND WHITE, FLOATING IN THE ETHEREAL BLUE! OBVIOUSLY IT'S A SIGN!
OF WHAT?
VERY PECULIAR HIGH ALTITUDE WINDS, I GUESS.
SCIENCE KIND OF TAKES THE FUN OUT OF THE PORTENT BUSINESS.
YOU KNOW, SOME SORT OF CUMULONIMBAL THING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

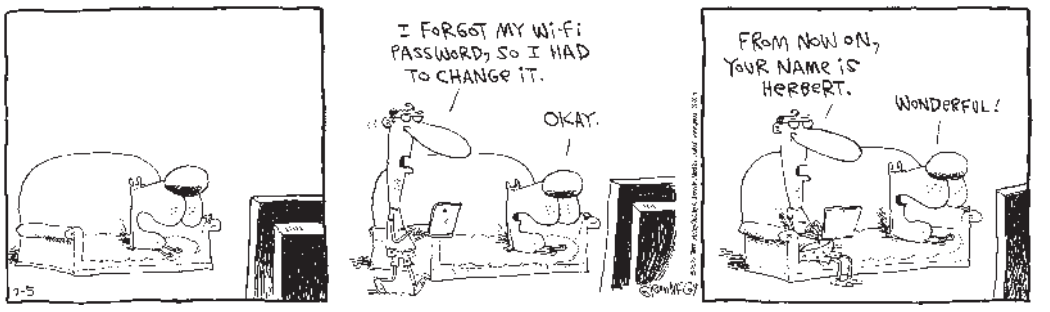
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


JULY FIFTH, AM I RIGHT?
YEP.
THE SCENT OF HOT DOGS STILL IN THE AIR...
THE GLOW OF A DAY WELL-CELEBRATED...
THE SLUDGE OF FIREWORKS DEBRIS IN THE POOL.
WORTH EVERY SKIM!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 — of Sandwich
5 Saigon soup
8 URL opener
12 Coagulate
13 Charged bit
14 Pitcher Hershiser
15 Romantic appointments
17 Skater Lipinski
18 Like aspirin, briefly
19 Ozone, for one
20 Governing gp.
21 That chap's
22 — -Magnon
23 "Evita" surname
26 Gym gear
30 "— Rhythm"
31 Chum
32 Cowgirl's footwear
33 Spider's traps
35 Baby collie
36 Owns
37 Prohibit
38 Sound of Washington
41 Flushed
42 Aunt, in Acapulco
45 Skin soother
46 Donna Summer hit song
48 Sagan or Sandburg
49 Ambulance VIP
50 Luminary
51 Singles
52 Horse chow
53 Prefix with pilot

DOWN
1 Canyon sound
2 Oodles
3 Campus mil. group
4 Old Ford model
5 Pocket breads
6 Works the soil
7 Carry- — (travel bags)
8 Frank holder
9 Streetcar
10 Actress Hatcher
11 Scheme
16 Opposite of "fer"
20 Onassis nickname
21 Toy car brand
22 Cartoon frame
23 Photo, for short
24 Conceit
25 Steal from
26 Existed
27 Jump
28 Pinnacle
29 Hog haven
31 "Nova" airer
34 Nosh
35 Cushions
37 White of "The Golden Girls"
38 Designer Rabanne
39 — Bator
40 Slasher film fare
41 Capital of Italia
42 Ballet attire
43 "— first you ..."
44 Roundish do
46 Devilish laugh
47 Airport screening org.

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Last Monday's Answer 07/5

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■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Rapinoe, 37; Dave Haywood, 40; Edie Falco, 59; Huey Lewis, 72.

Happy Birthday: Make changes to your living arrangements and to how you help others. Avoid taking on too much or neglecting what's important to you. Keep your expectations and situations in perspective, and live in the moment. Use your ingenuity and creativity to develop a stellar plan to ensure your personal life is meaningful. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 25, 33, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Hidden matters will be confusing. When in doubt, ask questions, find out where you stand and find a way to move forward. Don't waste valuable time on nonsense and other people's poor judgment. Take physical action to find out what works for you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make changes if you aren't happy with the way things are going. Keep your emotions hidden, and face challenges with an open mind. Take the high road and act quickly to avoid a complicated situation. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Satisfy your thirst for knowledge. Researching and talking to experts will convince you to rethink your strategy. Take on less and focus more on doing the best job possible; progress will be yours. Don't let an emotional situation lead you astray. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotions will surface, putting you in an awkward situation. Don't jump to conclusions or act in haste. Take the time to find out the truth, and be realistic about handling unstable conditions. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look at every aspect of a situation before making a move. Pay more attention to what you want and need in your life. Personal growth will offer perspective regarding what's right and best for you. Build a secure future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll have splendid ideas, but don't forget to share your plans with the people your decisions will affect. Being open about the decisions you make will decrease complaints. Don't take a risk when it comes to your reputation or health. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look for an opportunity to learn something new. Educational pursuits can help you choose a direction that you find interesting, which will improve your life. Financial gain and self-improvement look promising. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Participate in something that intrigues you, but consider your motives and goals before you take on responsibilities. Refuse to let other people's troubles drag you down. Handle matters efficiently, and get back to what makes you feel alive. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be upfront when dealing with matters at home and work. Give a precise and in-depth analysis of situations and what you plan on doing next. Concentrate on giving yourself the time and space to engage in something you enjoy. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your thoughts, ideas and energy into improving your living arrangements and daily routine. Simplify your life by creating an easygoing pace that allows you time to discover possibilities and pursuits that make you happy. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to the dynamics of meaningful relationships. Sharing your intentions and long-term plans will help you gain perspective regarding how to stabilize your life and find the happiness you desire. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Focus on earning and handling money. Look for purpose in what you do and rewards for what you achieve. Getting paid for doing something you enjoy will make your life easier. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and stubborn. You are aggressive and avant-garde.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		3		2		
			9		5			
	4		1		2		9	
	3	2				1	8	
8								9
	7	9				6	3	
	1		3		9		4	
			7		4			
		3		6		5		

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Monday's Answer

8	6	2	4	3	1	9	5	7
1	5	3	9	6	7	8	4	2
9	4	7	5	8	2	1	3	6
6	7	1	8	4	5	3	2	9
2	9	4	6	7	3	5	8	1
5	3	8	1	2	9	7	6	4
3	2	6	7	1	8	4	9	5
7	8	5	2	9	4	6	1	3
4	1	9	3	5	6	2	7	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TIGHTENING YOUR BELT Solution: 7 letters

B	R	R	U	D	S	E	C	N	A	N	I	F	S	H
F	R	E	E	T	H	G	I	E	W	M	B	N	S	F
Y	M	Ⓔ	W	M	A	N	A	G	E	S	O	A	R	T
E	N	R	Ⓥ	O	G	I	E	S	R	P	C	U	N	G
N	S	A	I	Ⓐ	L	T	D	E	U	N	G	U	N	K
O	T	C	P	F	Ⓢ	N	S	O	O	A	O	I	P	T
M	O	B	T	M	U	U	C	I	L	C	D	G	U	E
E	C	I	F	F	O	O	T	S	S	N	E	N	R	C
C	K	L	S	R	D	C	K	I	E	W	B	I	C	I
I	T	L	T	N	A	C	D	P	S	A	I	V	H	V
R	I	S	U	S	A	A	S	T	N	I	T	I	A	R
P	D	F	N	B	O	N	U	S	E	S	M	L	S	E
S	E	A	T	B	E	L	T	O	P	T	U	P	E	S
R	R	U	E	G	N	A	H	C	X	E	S	A	L	E
T	C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	E	K	R	A	M	E

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Accounting, Amount, Bank, Bills, Bonus, Career, Cash, Company, Corporate, Cost, Coupons, Credit, Cutbacks, Debit, Discount, Exchange, Expenses, Finances, Firm, Free, Frugal, Funds, Living, Lower, Manage, Market, Money, Office, Price, Purchase, Refund, Sale, Save, Seat Belt, Service, Simple, Spending, Stock, Transaction, Trousers, Value, Waist, Weight

Last Friday's Answer: Peroni

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

McKenzie superb for 7 innings as Guardians edge Yankees

CLEVELAND (AP)—About the same time New York Yankees star Aaron Judge grabbed a helmet and bat to pinch-hit, the Guardians committed a ninth-inning error that threatened to sabotage a great win.

In the moment, manager Terry Francona's emotions nearly got the best of him.

"When the ball came out of his glove, I almost started crying," Francona said.

Cleveland pulled it together.

Triston McKenzie shut down New York's big-bashing lineup over seven superb innings in a combined one-hitter and closer Emmanuel Clase survived a harrowing ninth, giving the Guardians a 2-0 win over the Yankees on Sunday.

Franmil Reyes drove in both Cleveland runs — homering in the fourth and hitting a clutch RBI single in the eighth — as the Guardians salvaged the series finale and handed the Yankees just their seventh loss in 32 games.

McKenzie (5-6) allowed only a broken-bat single to Josh Donaldson in the fourth. The right-hander, who has been hurt by giving up home runs this season, kept the ball in the park and the Yankees off balance.

"I don't think any of us came into this game looking at the Yankees as the No. 1 team in baseball," McKenzie said. "We came out here looking at them as a team we have to beat."

Eli Morgan worked a 1-2-3 in the eighth before giving way to Clase, the AL's top reliever in June, for a ninth that had a little of everything.

Clase walked Anthony Rizzo leading off and got Giancarlo Stanton to hit a slow grounder that should have been an out, but first baseman Owen Miller dropped the throw. The right-hander retired the next two before the Yankees summoned Judge, who leads the majors with 29 homers but wasn't in the starting lineup.

"He looked like he was swinging four bats over there in the dugout," Francona cracked.

With the crowd at Progressive Field hanging on every pitch, Clase went to a full count before walking Judge to load the bases. He then retired Aaron Hicks on a grounder to second for the final out and his 19th save in 21 chances.

"You don't expect him to throw three sliders in a row," said Hicks, who dropped to .138 (8 for 58) in his career with the bases loaded. "I just got jammed trying to hit the ball up the middle and got out."

AP

Cleveland Guardians starting pitcher Triston McKenzie delivers against the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, Sunday, July 3, 2022.

The Yankees reached the 80-game mark at 58-22, the third-best start through that many games since 1930.

New York won the first two games of the series, sweeping a doubleheader Saturday by a combined 19-5. Baseball's best team seemed poised to take the entire three-game set and six-game season series against Cleveland.

But McKenzie, who had given up multiple homers in six of his previous eight outings, came through with a stellar start.

"I think the difference between this outing and the last couple outings was making them feel a little more uncomfortable at the plate and using all my pitches to both sides," McKenzie said. "I used my curveball well to kind of slow them down and I think that just helped keep guys off balance and helped keep my heater kind of useful from the first inning to the last inning."

Reyes homered leading off the fourth inning against Jordan Montgomery (3-2), who pitched well but didn't get the run support, an unusual occurrence for a Yankees team winning at a record pace.

Reyes, who recently returned after missing 23 games with a strained hamstring, put the Guardians up 1-0 in the fourth with his sixth homer. Reyes turned on a 1-1 curveball, sending it over the wall in left field.

Red Sox 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, pitcher Rowan Wick (1-3) threw Trevor Story's comebacker down the right-field line for a two-run error with two outs in the 11th inning, and Boston avoided a three-game sweep.

Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts left in the seventh inning with a left thigh laceration after he was hurt when Willson Contreras was caught stealing second.

Jake Diekman (3-0) struck out four in two hitless innings in a game that took 4 hours, 25 minutes, Boston stopped Chicago's four-game winning streak, which had tied the Cubs' season high.

Padres 4, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Jake Cronenworth lined a single off the back of Craig Kimbrel (1-4) to spark a four-run ninth as San Diego avoided a four-game sweep. Luke Voit hit a tying double and Eric Hosmer singled home the go-ahead run.

San Diego had lost 14 of 15 to the Dodgers since sweeping them last June. The Padres also snapped a nine-game losing streak at Dodger Stadium.

Mookie Betts returned from the injured list with two doubles and scored twice. Clayton Kershaw threw four-hit ball over seven innings.

Nick Martinez (3-3) allowed one hit in 2 1/3 innings, and Taylor Rogers worked the ninth for his 23rd save.

Astros 4, Angels 2

In Houston, Angels star Mike Trout finished 0 for 11 with nine strikeouts in a three-game series and Los Angeles hitters fanned 20 times overall in the final as Houston completed a three-game sweep.

Rookie Jeremy Peña homered twice, capped by a two-run drive with two outs in the ninth inning off Ryan Tepera (1-2).

Framber Valdez struck out a career-high 13 in six innings, allowing two runs on three hits and five walks. Ryan Pressly (2-2) fanned three in the ninth.

Marlins 7, Nationals 4

In Washington, Brian Anderson hit a go-ahead infield single in the 10th off Carl Edwards Jr. (2-3).

Washington star outfielder Juan Soto injured his left calf making a throw in right field in the third and was taken out after being involved in a rundown in the fourth.

Tanner Scott (4-2) got the win, and Dylan Floro pitched a scoreless 10th for his first save this season as Miami improved to 11-1 against Washington. The Marlins are 26-39 against everyone else.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Denver, C.J. Cron hit a pair of three-run homers, including a go-ahead shot in the eighth off Noé Ramirez (2-2) as Colorado overcame a 5-0 deficit.

Jake Bird (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth and Daniel Bard earned his 16th save by getting Daulton Varsho to ground out with the bases loaded.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Shane Baz (1-1) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings and struck out seven for his first win in five league starts this season.

Harold Ramírez and Randy Arozarena hit two-run homers. Ji-Man Choi had a solo home run for the Rays in the six-run, seven-hit fifth inning — their biggest inning of the season. All of the runs came off Ross Stripling (4-3) and Trent Thornton.

Mets 4, Rangers 1

In New York, Eduardo Escobar homered for the third straight game, Starling Marte went deep for the second consecutive day and Jeff McNeil hit an RBI double to help the NL East leaders take two of three in the interleague series,

Carlos Carrasco (9-4) struck out eight and walked one in 5 2/3 innings, allowing one run and six hits, Edwin Díaz got three outs for his 18th save and Buck Showalter got his 1,600th win, passing Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda for 22nd place.

Jon Gray (4-4) gave up four runs, three earned, in 5 2/3 innings. Jonah Heim homered for the second consecutive day.

Orioles 3, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Tyler Wells (7-4) won his sixth consecutive decision, striking out a career-high seven while allowing one run and three hits in six innings.

Rougned Odor put Baltimore ahead when he led off the fifth with his eighth homer. Trey Mancini and Ryan Mountcastle homered on consecutive pitches in the sixth from Devin Smeltzer (4-2), who allowed six hits in six innings.

Dillon Tate earned his second save.

Royals 7, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Edward Olivares and Emmanuel Rivera homered in a three-run second inning off Tarik Skubal (5-7), who allowed five runs, five hits and three walks in 4 2/3 innings as he lost his fifth straight start.

Detroit pitchers tied a season high with eight walks, including two with the bases loaded.

José Cuas (2-0) relieved Brady Singer with the bases loaded and a 5-2 lead with two outs in the fifth and retired Javier Báez on a lineout that right fielder Whit Merrifield got with a sliding catch. Scott Barlow pitched a perfect ninth for his 12th save.

Reds 4, Braves 3

In Cincinnati, Albert Almora Jr. slapped a bases-loaded single past a drawn-in infield in the ninth against A.J. Minter (4-2). Cincinnati stopped a 10-game losing streak at Great American Ball Park, the Reds' longest home skid since 11 straight at Riverfront Stadium in April-May 1986.

Hunter Strickland (1-2) won after wasting a 3-1 lead by allowing ninth-inning homers to Marcell Ozuna — his second of the afternoon — and Michael Harris II.

Brewers 2, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Brandon Woodruff (7-3) gave up six hits and struck out eight in six innings.

Omar Narváez gave the Brewers their two runs by driving a cutter from Zach Thompson (3-6) for a two-run homer in the fifth.

Josh Hader struck out two and got Bryan Reynolds to fly out with the bases loaded in the ninth for his 25th save.

White Sox 13, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Lucas Giolito (5-4) gave up three hits in six innings as Chicago finished a three-game sweep.

Selby Zavala had three hits and three RBIs, Gavin Sheets drove in three runs and Leury García added three hits as Chicago improved to 7-1 at Oracle Park.

San Francisco has lost 11 of 13.

Sean Hjelle (0-1), a' 6-foot-11 reliever who joins Jon Rauch as the tallest players in major league history, allowed six runs — four earned — and eight hits in two innings.

Mariners 2, Athletics 1

In Seattle, Julio Rodríguez homered on Frankie Montas' first pitch and drove in both runs, Robbie Ray struck out a season-high 12 and Oakand lost for the 25th time in 31 games.

Ray (7-6) combined with Andrés Muñoz and Paul Sewald (ninth save) on a four-hitter and to strike out 16. Elvis Andrus homered for the A's, a big league-worst 26-55.

Montas (3-9) left after the first with tightness behind his right shoulder.

Phillies 4, Cardinals 0

In Philadelphia, Zack Wheeler threw seven shutout innings of four-hit ball and Rhys Hoskins and J.T. Realmuto slugged home runs to lead Philadelphia.

The Phillies won two of three games in the series against a team they are chasing for a National League wild-card spot. Since Rob Thomson took over as interim manager following the firing of Joe Girardi on June 3, Philadelphia has gone 20-9 and moved within 1 1/2 games of the Cardinals for the NL's third wild card.

Wheeler didn't allow more than one Cardinals baserunner to reach in an inning, scattered four singles through seven innings while striking out five and walking one in improving to 7-4 with a 2.66 ERA.

Both Hoskins and Realmuto went 2 for 4 — the only hitters for either team with multiple hits.

Adam Wainwright (6-6) allowed four runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings, striking out five and walking one.

5 players, $1.1B: NBA free agency starts with a bang

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP

Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal, center, goes to the basket against Charlotte Hornets guard Terry Rozier, left, and center Mason Plumlee (24) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, in Washington.

The NBA generated more basketball-related income than ever this past season, the total number coming up just short of $9 billion.

Business is good. The first night of free agency underscored how good.

Nikola Jokic agreed to the biggest contract in NBA history, Bradley Beal agreed to a deal worth a quarter-billion dollars, and the money just kept flowing. Shortly after midnight Friday in the Eastern time zone, three more players — Karl-Anthony Towns, Devin Booker and Ja Morant — also agreed to huge-money extensions.

Towns and Booker agreed to four-year deals that will commence in 2024 and are worth at least $224 million, their agent, Jessica Holtz of CAA, said. Morant will sign his first rookie extension, one that'll be worth at least $193 million and could reach the $230 million range, according to Tandem Sports, which represents him.

Those five players — Jokic, Beal, Towns, Booker and Morant — had more than $1.1 billion in money committed to them in their new deals, highlighting the moves made Thursday when the NBA's annual free-agent negotiating window opened.

Jokic agreed to a supermax extension to remain with the Denver Nuggets, the two-time reigning MVP guaranteeing himself at least $264 million over five seasons starting with the 2023-24 campaign. The final number may go up slightly depending on what the league's salary cap is going into the '23-24 season and if it exceeds current projections.

Beal will make $251 million over the next five seasons after re-signing with Washington, one day after turning down $37 million for this coming season from the team with whom he's spent the entirety of his 10-year career.

Towns and Booker got their deals not long afterward, as did Morant. More big-money extensions are coming at some point, particularly rookie extensions — Miami's Tyler Herro and New Orleans' Zion Williamson among the names on that list.

All those moves, even the biggest-money ones, were overshadowed by a piece of non-free-agent news that came earlier Thursday when Kevin Durant, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation, told the Brooklyn Nets that he wanted a trade. That undoubtedly had some sort of an impact on the decisions some teams were making, or were considering, with the surprise development that one of the world's elite players is looking for a new place to play.

Jokic and Beal have signed lucrative contracts before. For some, the ones they get this summer will be their first.

Jalen Brunson, as had been widely speculated given his deep ties to the Knicks — his father played there, for starters — agreed to sign with New York, on a deal that ESPN reported would be worth $104 million over four years. He had earned about $6 million, total, in his four seasons with the Dallas Mavericks and saw his value soar by averaging 21.6 points in 18 playoff games this past season.

Anfernee Simons, who had a breakout season for the injury-plagued Portland Trail Blazers last year — taking advantage of his opportunity, and then some — agreed to a four-year, $100 million contract to remain with that club. And Lu Dort, undrafted three years ago and someone who made about $4 million combined in his three seasons with Oklahoma City, will stay with the Thunder for the next five years on a deal worth nearly $88 million.

NBA NUMBERS

The NBA set the new salary cap, luxury tax and other numbers that will be used this coming season and go into effect Friday.

The cap is $123.655 million, the tax level is $150.267 million. The minimum team salary level is $111.29 million and the exceptions were set as wel. The non-taxpayer mid-level is $10.49 million, taxpayer mid-level is $6.479 million, and the mid-level for a team with room under the cap is $5.401 million.

TUCKER TO PHILADELPHIA

P.J. Tucker is reuniting with Philadelphia general manager Daryl Morey and — assuming he re-signs, as planned — James Harden as well. Tucker agreed Thursday to a three-year deal with the 76ers for $33 million. Morey, Tucker and Harden were together with the Houston Rockets; Harden declared free agency Wednesday with the intention of coming back to Philadelphia. Tucker won a title with Milwaukee in 2021 and helped Miami to the Eastern Conference finals in 2022.

MCGEE CHOOSES MAVERICKS

Dallas and JaVale McGee — a three-time NBA champion and an Olympic gold medalist as well — agreed on a contract for two seasons and a third at McGee's option worth about $20 million. McGee has played for eight NBA teams and is heading to Dallas for a second time; he played 34 games there in 2015-16.

PORTIS, INGLES TO BUCKS

Bobby Portis (four years, $49 million) is returning to Milwaukee, and the Bucks are adding veteran guard Joe Ingles as well. Ingles is signing a one-year deal, according to his wife, Renae Ingles, who tweeted that "CEO of the house, Renae Ingles, is thrilled for Joe and their family."

HEAT DECISIONS

Miami will retain Victor Oladipo on a one-year, $11 million deal and Dewayne Dedmon on a two-year deal for about $9 million, though the second year has conditional protections.

MAGIC KEEPING HARRIS

Gary Harris signed with the Orlando Magic, the team said, with the sides agreeing on two years for $26 million for the guard. The Magic are also keeping center Mo Bamba on a two-year deal.

RAPTORS MOVES

Toronto is keeping forwards Chris Boucher (three years, $36 million) and Thaddeus Young (two years, $16 million).

BAGLEY STAYING

Detroit moved quickly to lock up restricted free agent Marvin Bagley III, agreeing to keep him with a three-year, $37 million deal.

WRIGHT TO WIZARDS

In addition to keeping Beal, the Wizards also agreed to a two-year, $16 million deal with guard Delon Wright.

NBA says take-foul penalty will change at ummer leagues

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA has sent another strong indicator that the penalty for transition take fouls is about to change.

Such fouls will result in a penalty of one free throw, plus retention of the ball, at all three summer leagues this season — first the two smaller ones in San Francisco and Salt Lake City that start this weekend, then the 30-team one in Las Vegas that opens next week.

Changing the rule at the NBA level has been mulled for several years, with momentum moving toward finally making something happen in recent months. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told The Associated Press last month that he expects the oft-maligned foul to come with stiffer penalties next season.

That move is likely to come when the NBA's board of governors meets later this month.

"I am confident that we'll see a change," Silver said in the AP interview. "I would not say I'm overconfident that it will be the last change, even though this is a rule that we've been experimenting with in the G League for last four years."

The play occurs when a defender intentionally commits a foul to halt a transition opportunity for the opposition. Typically, such a foul only has resulted in the disadvantaged team taking the ball out of bounds. But since 2018, in the G League, when a defender commits a take foul, the fouled team retains possession and gets one free throw before play resumes.

"I think the take foul needs to be abolished as soon as humanly possible," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said during the playoffs.

The G League and Summer League are the traditional testing labs for the NBA before making rule changes or amending policies. Among those that started at those levels and eventually got to the NBA; the coaches' challenge, plus resetting the 24-second shot clock to 14 seconds in offensive rebound situations.

Other changes coming to the three summer leagues: The NBA will test new policies where referees have limitations on initiating replay reviews; referees will not have the ability to initiate reviews of goaltending or basket interference during the final 2 minutes of fourth quarters and overtime; and in Las Vegas only, a light will be installed at the scorer's table to announce that a scoring change is forthcoming based on the replay center's review of a completed play.

Garland, Cavaliers agree to 5-year, $193M extension

CLEVELAND (AP)—Darius Garland's rapid rise to elite NBA status is complete.

Cleveland's All-Star point guard agreed Saturday to a five-year, $193 million contract extension, his agent Rich Paul of Klutch Sports told the Associated Press.

Garland's deal is the largest in franchise history, and locks up a player the Cavs believe can get them back among the league's top teams.

The fifth overall pick in 2019, Garland has quickly developed into one of the game's best all-around guards. Last season, he averaged 21.7 points and 8.6 assists in 68 games while helping the Cavs win 22 more games than the previous season.

The 22-year-old Garland has improved statistically each season, but beyond that, he has grown as a leader for a rising Cleveland team that just missed the playoffs last season. He's one of the team's core pieces along with All-Star center Jarrett Allen and forward Evan Mobley.

Garland agreed to the same deal that another elite young guard, Ja Morant of the Memphis Grizzlies, struck earlier in the week as the majority of the league's offseason business began getting underway.

Garland's extension begins in the 2023-24 season and, for now, would see him making just over $33 million in the first year and escalating steadily, all the way to $44 million in 2027-28.

If he makes an All-NBA team this coming season — meaning he would have to be selected as one of the top six guards in the league, unless the league changes its voting structure before then — the numbers get even bigger, going from "max" to "supermax."

In that scenario, Garland would start out making $40 million in 2023-24, and be due almost $53 million in 2027-28.

'Pickleball inaugural event a success'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The on and off downpour of rain during the weekend did not put a damper on the Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands inaugural event last Saturday in the newly striped court at the American Memorial Park.

Not only were CNMI pickleball players treated to a day of fun, barbecue, and friendly matches, there were five pickleball players from Guam who participated—Derick Alcorn, Tomi Castillo, William Josler, Ronni Connelly, and Albert Kronix—along with CNMI national tennis players Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, and Colin Ramsay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands pose for a photo with the five Guam pickleball players after their friendly matches last Saturday in their newly striped court at the American Memorial Park.

PFNMI president Dr. Nelson Krum said about the event that he "was impressed with the number of players and spectators that attended!"

About 30 to 40 players participated during both the morning and evening games.

The event held a round-robin format where Crazy 8's and King's Ransom were played in the morning and at night.

Nicky Nichols, who is a member of the PFNMI board and is a pickleball player, was seen at the event and was interviewed about the sport. He said the sport is beneficial for older people or people who have injuries or are prone to injuries.

However, he said the sport of pickleball is for people of any age. Currently in their federation, there are players as young as 11 and as old as 74, but there are mostly 30- to 40-year-old players.

Nichols added, "What's nice about pickleball is that you can learn to play within one day easily. Within three games, you're playing at a level already where you're going to have fun playing. So, it's not a difficult game to learn. You don't chase the ball so much."

For Nichols personally, he's taken up pickleball after being a tennis player for many years because it's "fun."

"It's just a real social sport. We get four people on one court and look how close you are. You're talking while you play, laughing and making fun of each other. You have banter, you have people talking while you're playing. So, it's a very social sport."

One player, Dave Guerrero, was seen having a friendly game with Shelly Tran, a new dentist from Paradise Dental who is a new pickleball player. They both said that it's a great sport to play. "It's a good, healthy, and fun sport. The age range brings everyone together… It's awesome. It's a fairly easy, fun sport to learn, it's addicting."

The PFNMI encourages community members to try out the sport when they are out at the courts playing either during the day or at night. They provide the equipment such as the paddles, balls, and nets.

"I think people can get really serious with the game, or just use our equipment and just come out and have fun. We have a lot of doctors from the ER playing with us and a lot of nurses."

If you have any questions about the PFNMI, call or text Dr. Nelson Krum at 670-789-8201, or email @ nelsonkrum@msn.com. Let him know if you would like to be added to the Pickleball CNMI Group Chat on Whatsapp.

DENEVAN

From Page 20

foot race.

"It helps that it's a shorter race and I have a better chance. [As a sprinter] I have little more speed [in short spurts]. But if it's any longer than 2 miles then Lily would've got me for sure."

He added that training with Muldoon actually has helped him become a faster runner.

"It helps to have a really fast training partner. In order to run with Lily every day I have to run pretty quick. I was feeling good this morning and the runners are all really fast and I just kept up with them which I did. It was a nice Saipan morning. Not too busy and not many cars out there. Not too hot and it's actually pleasant morning to run. It was good."

For Muldoon, she acknowledged that it was the first time Denevan beat her in a race that didn't involve two wheels.

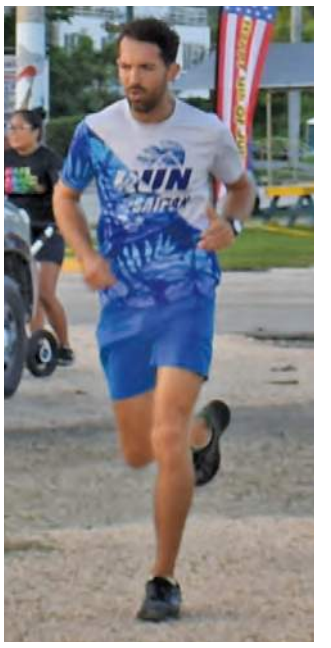
"I had a goal to keep up with him today. So, we took off fast with the pack and I was trying to stay close behind because that's one of the things that I do when I train is to keep up on how fast he runs. Then about half a mile in I realized I was not going to be able to keep up with him and I need to try to find another person to try and keep pace with. He felt it today and he was really, really feeling good."

The 37-year-old Department of Public Health director and CHC Emergency Department physician jokingly said that she and Denevan will need to have a chat when it comes to who wins races in the future.

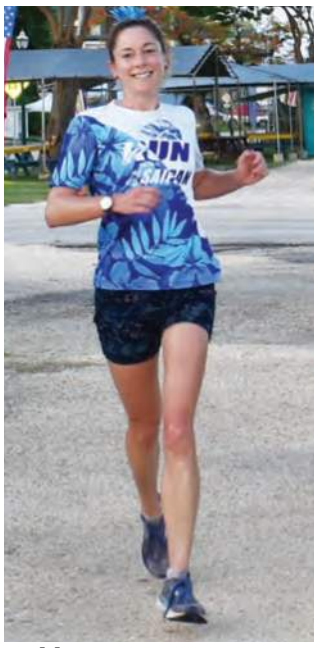
"We're gonna have some conversation about this. [But] I'm just happy he's out running because sometimes it's hard to get him out and do these races. It seem he's very motivated. It's only 2 miles which is a nice rest and we have friends who are new to the Saipan running community so we wanted to run with them," she said.

Meanwhile, national coach Dr. Ron Snyder, sprints coach David Shamburger, and Run Saipan president Edward S. Dela Cruz Jr. got their just deserts when Pixley, Veloria, Chavez, and Theo Rodgers smashed pies on their faces after they beat Shamburger in the race.

As part of an incentive for members of the CNMI National Athletics Team, Run Saipan and Latte Built Gym, who sponsored the race, issued a challenge that whoever beat the former Southern Oregon University track athlete in the 4th of July race would have the honor to "pie" the three after the event.



Denevan



Muldoon

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	58	22	.725	_
Boston	44	35	.557	13½
Toronto	44	36	.550	14
Tampa Bay	43	36	.544	14½
Baltimore	36	44	.450	22

Central Division

Minnesota	45	37	.549	_
Cleveland	40	36	.526	2
Chicago	38	39	.494	4½
Detroit	30	47	.390	12½
Kansas City	29	48	.377	13½

West Division

Houston	51	27	.654	_
Seattle	39	42	.481	13½
Texas	37	40	.481	13½
Los Angeles	37	44	.457	15½
Oakland	26	55	.321	26½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	49	30	.620	_
Atlanta	46	34	.575	3½
Philadelphia	42	38	.525	7½
Miami	37	40	.481	11
Washington	29	52	.358	21

Central Division

Milwaukee	46	35	.568	_
St. Louis	44	37	.543	2
Chicago	32	47	.405	13
Pittsburgh	32	47	.405	13
Cincinnati	27	51	.346	17½

West Division

Los Angeles	49	29	.628	_
San Diego	47	34	.580	3½
San Francisco	40	37	.519	8½
Arizona	35	44	.443	14½
Colorado	35	44	.443	14½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMIVA

From Page 20

thought of the skills of the young duo, he said "They've always been very coachable when they were younger, and it's really cool to see them grow up, find that love of volleyball. And even though they left [the] island, they still pursued it."

Mister added that videos were sent to him by both Logan and Johnson so he could see their level of play progress and improve prior to the start of the Mini Games.

Logan is currently a student of the University of Hawaii-Manoa and is shooting to get a spot in the roster to play for the school's two-time NCAA Division I defending champion indoor volleyball team.

Johnson is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo in 2019.

Mister was then asked about the other teams that the men's team played against and he said that those teams were "powerhouses."

"Teams like Tahiti are always a very strong, powerhouse team. We played them in our second game and they played outstanding. In the semis [with] Tuvalu, they had done some friendly scrimmages before, and I was really impressed with that team. It is just a very strong team so I knew that would be a tough battle, which it was. And then the one before that was New Caledonia, which they came out on fire. So that was a tough battle, too."

Finally, with the finals against Vanuatu, Mister said everybody's nerves were on fire. "I think I was more nervous than when I've been playing. And going into the finals, I think everybody was nervous, like 'oh my gosh, we made it but we've got some hard work to do.'"

For the women's team, Mister also said that he is proud of their effort and performance in the Games. "The ladies did a lot of work and preparation and [I'm] also very proud of the ladies. They played very strong and they didn't medal… but they did great, they did fantastic."

Mister then thanked the volunteers and everyone who came out to support the Games.

"There was just a tremendous number of volunteers that came out… they did an outstanding job… We couldn't have done it without them. Huge shout out to Somia Quan for leading the charge on that. And then our officials and our linesmen and people who came out to do ball retrieval. Huge support, it was amazing. The Department of Public Works also did court maintenance between every game… and all the games went off on time. It was pretty outstanding."

CRISTOBAL

From Page 20

after lifting 222 kg in both the snatch and the clean & jerk. The former's heaviest lift in the snatch was 95 kg. Breske was a man among boys by winning the snatch with a lift of 104 kg, which coupled with his dominance in the clean & jerk, gave him the gold medal in the overall weight category at 239 kg. Third place overall went to Felix Lien who had an amalgamated lift of 218 kg.

The son of Leonardo Sr. and Ana Marie Cristobal is just happy he was able to compete after representing the CNMI in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 just a week prior.

"Honestly after a week of just having competed in the Mini Games and having a 17-hour flight into Vegas the day before the competition, I just wanted to go out there and have a good time. Getting the silver was a bonus and I'm grateful for it."

The Marianas High School alumnus is dedicating his two silver medals in the U25 Nationals to his family and friends who've always supported him.

"I especially want to give a shout out to Angel San Nicholas and Cheyanne Manuel for helping me train even after their competitions in the Mini Games were over. To Pinnacle Weightlifting coach Jackie Black for coaching me and to my buddies Justin Wilmoth and Shadrin Andres being there and helping me in the backstage."

In the Mini Games, Cristobal salvaged second place in the clean & jerk portion of the 67-kg class after lifting 125 kg in his third and last try to the delight of the partisan home crowd at the MHS Gymnasium.

Cristobal enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for two years before he got accepted into the Air Force Academy in 2018. It was at the academy where he started a weightlifting club. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy on May 25, 2022, with a bachelor of science degree in Behavioral Sciences; he entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer and second lieutenant.

Aside from weightlifting Cristobal also shines in his military career, having received the top former regular enlisted graduate award, and the Horner Award with the highest class honors. He will soon start training as an Air Battle manager in Florida.

McKenzie superb for 7 innings as Guardians edge Yankees

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

'Pickleball inaugural event a success'

PAGE 19

Denevan, Muldoon top 4th of July run

MARK RABAGO
National coach Dr. Ron Snyder, sprints coach David Shamburger, and Run Saipan president Edward S. Dela Cruz are all smiles after being "pied" by the fastest runners of the CNMI National Athletics Team.

MARK RABAGO
A total of 75 runners took part in the 2nd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race held yesterday from the Liberation Day fair grounds to the Garapan fire station and back.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Michael Denevan and Lily Muldoon topped yesterday's 2nd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race, but the biggest winners were actually members of the CNMI National Athletics Team who were finally able to exact sweet revenge on their coaches after winning the "pie challenge."

For a change, Denevan beat Muldoon in a race after crossing the finish line at the entrance to the Liberation Day fair in a flat 12 minutes. Rex Pixley came in second moments later in the 12:04 mark followed by his fellow national track and field member, Sildrey Veloria, in 12:32.

Snyder, Dela Cruz, Shamburger get pied

Muldoon was fifth overall and first among women with a time of 12:49. Runner-up was another CNMI national member, Kaithlyn Chavez, who clocked in at 13:51. Third place went to Rose Chisato after turning her popsicle stick in 15:15.

Denevan said it was cool to finally beat the good Commonwealth Health Center doctor in a

See DENEVAN on Page 19

NMIVA: Proud of performance of beach v-ball teams

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

After a sensational and nail-biter to the men's beach volleyball finals between Team NMI and Vanuatu, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and head coach Tyce Mister have no other emotion to convey besides pride for both the men's and women's beach volleyball team during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

NMPMG2022/QUINN BREADY
The CNMI's Logan Mister gets ready to spike the ball during the beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Crowne Plaza sand courts.

NMIVA president Somia Quan was asked what she thought of both NMI volleyball teams during the Games and she said "On behalf of NMIVA, we are proud of the performance of the NMI national men and women beach volleyball teams. Chenny Lizama, Kathy Winkfield, Logan Mister, and Andrew Johnson put in a lot of hours training and preparing for the Mini Games and we appreciate the sacrifice and dedication it took to do that."

Quan also recognized Tyce Mister of Gold's Gym who is the head coach for both teams. "We also want to recognize Tyce Mister for taking on the head coach position and getting the teams ready to compete. His years of experience competing in Oceania events added tremendous value to coaching these men and women."

Separately, Mister told *Saipan Tribune* that he is "doubly proud" of the teams as he is both the coach and father of silver medalist Logan, his eldest son of the men's beach volleyball team.

"I know they've been working hard since the last time I'd seen them both actually playing. And I was pleasantly surprised how much they had improved in their skills and improved their overall game."

When asked what he

See NMIVA on Page 19

Cristobal earns 2 silvers in U25 Nationals

By MARK RABAGO
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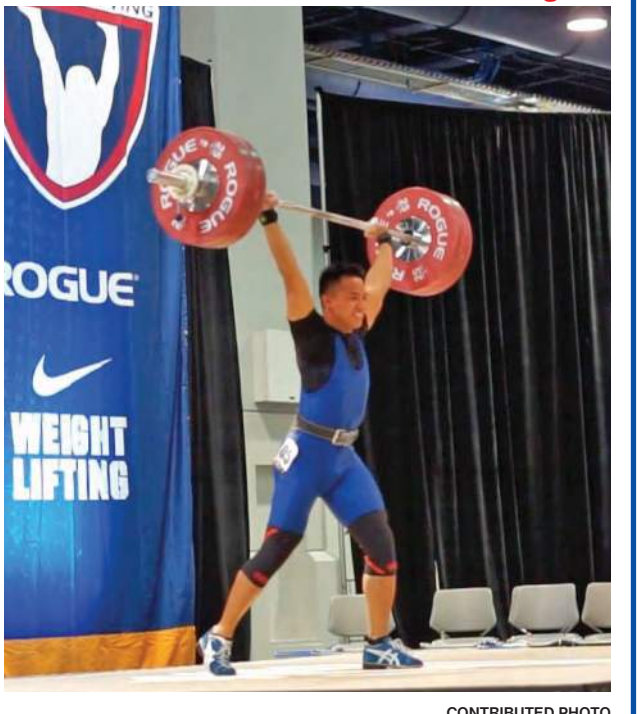
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's Leowell Cristobal made his home islands proud again after the recent U.S. Air Force Academy graduate won two silver medals in the U.S. Weightlifting U25 Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 23-year-old finished second in the clean & jerk of the 67 kg weight class to earn a silver medal in the event. Cristobal lifted 126 kg in the clean & jerk to finish second behind Riley Breske who was able to lift 135 kg to win the competition with plenty to spare. Julian Menendez came in third with a lift of 122 kg.

Cristobal also finished second behind Breske in the total weight category

See CRISTOBAL on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Leowell Cristobal in action during the recent U.S. Weightlifting U25 Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada.